

The Augustine Fellowship, Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, Fellowship-Wide Services, Inc.

2008 Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Tuesday July 15, 2008—Friday July 18, 2008

Dayspring Episcopal Conference Center, East Parrish, Florida

Conference Theme: The 6th Tradition of S.L.A.A (from the S.L.A.A. 12 Traditions)

“An S.L.A.A. group or S.L.A.A. as a whole ought never endorse, finance, or lend the S.L.A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, or prestige divert us from our primary purpose. ”

Present were 41 voting members. This included six Board of Trustees members, one F.W.S. staff member, the editor of the Journal, and 34 delegates. Delegates represented Intergroups located in Los Angeles CA, San Francisco/East Bay CA, San Diego CA, Sacramento CA, Santa Cruz CA, Orange County CA, Austin TX, Houston, TX, Tampa FL, Chicago IL, New England MA, Atlanta GA, Denver CO, Seattle WA, New York, NY, Cleveland OH, and Washington DC. International delegates represented Intergroups located in Montreal Canada, Toronto Canada, Germany, and England. Three lone groups were also represented by delegates from groups in Florida, Kentucky, and North Carolina.

Frequently Used Abbreviations:

Conference Committees:

Table with 3 columns: Frequently Used Abbreviations, Conference Committees, and Literature. Rows include items like Annual Business Meeting (ABM), Board of Trustees (BOT), Business Meeting Items Summary (BMIS), Conference Service Manual (CSM), Fellowship-Wide Services Office (F.W.S.), Anorexia (CAC), By-Laws (CBC), Conference Charter (CCC), Diversity (CDC), Finance (CFC), Healthy Relationships (CHRC), Inter-Fellowship (CIFC), Intergroup Communications (CICC), Internet (CIC), Literature (CLC), Members' Relationship to BOT/FWS (MRBOTC), Members Retention (CMRC), Prison Outreach (POC), Public Information (CPIC), Service (CSC), Sponsorship (CSP), Steps & Traditions (CS&TC), and Journal (CJC).

The F.W.S. office, Board Committees, and Conference Committees were asked to submit their annual reports. The following list represents the reports that appeared in the participant's Welcome packets.

Table with 3 columns listing abbreviations: BOT Chair, FWS Office, BF&OC, BPRC, BG&NC, CCC, BMIS Review Subcommittee, CLC, CJC, CFC, CPOC, CPIC, CSTC 12&12.

Tuesday July 15, 2008 General Assembly 1:15-4:45pm

Sam M., chair of the CCC, welcomed all to the 2008 ABM. He served as the micro, Dan A., BOT chair served as the macro, Anthony P. and Stephen S. served as the backup, and Mariam served as the record keeper. This session began with a moment of silence for the still suffering sex and love addict, followed by the Serenity Prayer. The 12 Steps and the 12 Traditions were read. Mike J. and Ava M. volunteered as the vote counters, Bob F. volunteered as the timekeeper, JF served as the spiritual reminder.

At this time, BOT members and F.W.S. staff introduced themselves. Each of the delegates introduced themselves and check-ins began. The history and process of the ABM was reviewed, as was the agenda and what to bring to each meeting. Participants were encouraged to use their recovery tools to take personal care of themselves outside of the meeting rooms. Participants were encouraged to complete the ABM survey at the close of the ABM, as their feedback was important. Participants were given a reminder that the deadline for all motions and Items for Discussion were due by 7pm that evening. Participants were reminded that electing BOT members was one of their most important tasks of the ABM. The process for nomination and the election were reviewed. The participants were also reminded to keep the purple Conference Participants Roster confidential and that the contact information was not for reproduction. Prior to beginning the practice session of the ABM process, the local volunteers from the Tampa Bay Intergroup were recognized for their service.

The voting process used at the ABM was reviewed. The quorum was explained. How to use the microphones and how to express pros and cons for the issues were clarified. The difference between a motion and an Item for Discussion (IFD) was explained. The roles of the vote counters, spiritual reminder, record keeper, timekeeper, micro, macro, and backup were specified. There was a review of the ABM schedule and activities, after which were announcements for the BOT meeting, the Fireside Chat, and the mandatory meeting of the Conference Committee chairs. Other brief announcements were made and there was a break of 15 minutes.

After the break, the importance of bringing and using the BMIS as a reference during the meeting was urged. BOT Committees, F.W.S. staff, and Conference Committees then shared their reports (Highlights will be included).

Linda Hamilton, the General Manager of the F.W.S. office, reviewed her report. The office concentrated on stabilization, efficiency, and becoming more cost effective. A new accounting system, new on-line store, and revamped shipping costs were some of the achievements of the office this year.

Dan A., Chair of the BOT, reviewed his report. He stated stability in the F.W.S. office was key this year and the BOT focused on carrying the message with the resources they had and using the website as a low cost way to reach a large number of members.

Richard C., chair of the Board Finance and Operating Committee, reviewed his report. Highlights of the report included that all debts for the office are paid, the budget is balanced, and staffing has been stabilized.

Stephen S., Chair of the Board Public Relations Committee, shared his gratitude for our webmaster, Beth S. The new look and operations of the website are due to her diligence, technological experience, and unwavering commitment to have a great website. This committee now oversees the F.W.S. Newsletter.

Rita H., Chair of the Board Governance and Nominating Committee, gave her report. Highlights of this committee included: assisting with BOT recruiting, updating the recruitment flyer, and implementation of a "trial" period for individuals that are interested in serving on the BOT. This committee oversees the BOT Call Squad, a committee that contacts all Intergroups with information happening on the BOT and F.W.S. office level.

Sam M. introduced reports from Conference Committees: Here are the highlights of those reports:

Ava M. gave the report for the Conference Steps and Traditions Committee, where she serves as chair. The committee has two subcommittees, the Traditions study, in which different issues are brought forth by members and are discussed in the subcommittee. The second subcommittee is the 12 and 12 book that is currently in the sharing-sheet gathering phase.

Anthony P. gave the report for the Conference Finance Committee. Its main job is to allocate funds to the Conference committees after being given the budget amount specified in the S.L.A.A. budget.

Eric G. gave the report for the Conference Internet Committee. Some of its modest goals fulfilled were to tutor Intergroups in a project related to the internet, review of text and contents of website, and update the address of the office on documents.

Bob F. gave the report for the Conference Literature Committee. There are a number of projects that most likely will be ready for publication next year, Tools of Recovery or Tools of S.L.A.A., People of Color, and Romantic Obsession. There is a new project, New Measurement of Progress, how to measure your progress in S.L.A.A. The Cross-Talk, Feedback, and Triggering Language pamphlet needs some volunteers to finish writing it.

Sam M. gave the report for the CCC. Submissions were received electronically for the first time and were successful. Subcommittees of the CCC are the: Leadership Mentoring Sub-Committee, in which mentoring delegates help encourage non-delegates to become involved in service work; and the BMIS Review Subcommittee, which developed the BMIS used at this ABM.

Andrew H. gave the report for the Conference Journal Committee. This committee needs volunteers for a new chair, marketing director, accountant, and editor.

Richard C. gave the report for the Conference Anorexia Committee. There is in development a sequel to the current Anorexia pamphlet.

Derek O. gave the report for the Prison Outreach Committee. There are needs for more outreach and streamlining the POC process of outreach.

The process of Phase I, Phase II, and the voting process (including an explanation of minority opinion and group conscience) was reviewed for all participants. A summary of the information includes; read the motion or item for discussion, its intent, and the requirements; committees give feedback and information on the motion or item for discussion; discussion in pro and con form; Phase I (there is no discussion, however, if discussion is needed, the motion goes directly to Phase II); Phase II for a motion (committee reports are read, pros and cons are heard, HP silence for 30 seconds, voting process); Phase II for items for discussion (time limits are followed, record keeper records responses, sent to the BMIS for committees to address the issues, if motion is made from the information-it is sent to the BMIS for the next ABM). The participants were informed that a 2/3 majority vote is binding on the BOT.

At this time, the BGNC reviewed the nomination and election procedures.

There were no motions on the agenda at this ABM, so there was no Phase I proceeding. However, there will be an addendum to the BMIS later, and there will be a Phase I motion. The participants moved into Phase II.

08n01 Issue for Discussion:

[This IFD is the first of three closely related IFD's regarding F.W.S. contribution policy.]

What should be the policy regarding the maximum amount individuals may contribute to Fellowship-Wide Services? In particular:

What should be the maximum amount an individual may contribute directly to the Fellowship-Wide Services general fund in any given fiscal year? (*Board of Trustees*)

Committee Discussion:

- CSTC- Consider Traditions 1, 5, 7, and 12 on page 84 of the CSM.
- CFC- We are comfortable with the current cap but would like it be indexed with the rate of inflation. A.A. has a \$3,000 limit for individual donations, and unlimited contributions for groups. The sizes of S.L.A.A. and A.A. are different. Al-Anon uses a limit of 1% of its operating budget.
- BFOC- We are at our lowest contributions in 7 years, just over \$100,000 in 2007-08.

Delegate Discussion

- More accountability of how funds are used. Large endowment works against the idea that large contributor might have undue influence on how we operate and organize ourselves.
- Using Traditions 11 and 12, we should make individual contributions more anonymous.
- No limits on contributions, tired of begging money from our groups. Compromise of \$6000 and not \$3000 as a limit. A.A. is different from S.L.A.A. financially. We can give more to our Intergroups and not as individual.
- If we are to accept larger donations, it should be anonymous, even to the BOT.
- I would rather defer to the Fellowship that does have the experience around the Traditions and accepting money.
- Having a fixed percentage is supported. I hear a concern of undue influence; however, when supporting one's organization, we should not use a limit.
- No one should have undue influence. Let's explore a fixed percentage rather than a fixed amount. There is too much emphasis on fundraising.
- There should be no cap on individual projects and indexed for inflation in response to S.L.A.A. needs.
- There is a distinction between the general fund (money we spend each year), annual funds from the prudent reserve (contributions set up as prudent reserve), and Fellowship endowment fund and monies used for special projects.

Note A few minutes were dedicated to addressing some informational questions the participants had. Clarifications were made as to the General Fund. Comments continued.*

- I would like to move the conversation to how we can contribute time, and not focus on money.
- Getting small monies is an exercise in spirituality and we need to remind ourselves of this when we are talking about caps.
- There should not be a donation limit, but if they do, they do not have undue influence on the organization or its projects. A person making a \$100 donation can have undue influence.
- The cap should not be a magical number. If one's needs are greater, we should accept financial participation at every level.
- I have experienced a lack of participation at every level. How can we meet the need for money and encourage participation?
- If everyone sent \$5 to S.L.A.A. we would not have this conversation.
- How many donations are in the larger numbers?

There was a motion on the floor to extend the time for discussion (ten more minutes) on this issue, since the time allotted had been met. The motion was approved: 28-9-3. The discussion continued for 10 more minutes.

- There was a distinction made between the general fund and the prudent reserve. The general fund is the operating funds. The prudent reserve is monies only used in times of an exceptional emergency, and extreme situations and circumstances. The prudent reserve does have a cap that equals one year of the operating funds plus the inventory.
- I question that putting a cap on the contribution would accurately reflect how a member might cause an undue influence.
- I suggest we have a cap of 1% of the operating budget. Encourage the local members to take excess monies to local groups and Intergroups.
- The groups and Intergroups need keep the "power of the purse," as a way of showing discontent at the way S.L.A.A. works.
- I support more fundraising and the concept of an institutional annual giving program which would address the \$5 idea. We need to educate internally on what FWS does.

The discussion was ended as the allotted time was met. There was a 15 minute break, after which was the Getting to Know the BOT and FWS staff session.

Tuesday July 15, 2008 Fireside Chat on Budget Priorities 7:15-9:00pm

Dan A., chair of the BOT, made a presentation about budget priorities. He stated that the Conference does not approve the FWS budget; however, the BOT is trying to move in the direction of more collaboration and consultation with the Conference on the budget. The chair shared how the budget was developed in the past that the budget was developed with revenue projections that were not realistic. This led to the FWS office needing to make an emergency withdrawal from the prudent reserve fund this year.

Since that time, the Board Finance and Operating Committee, supervisor to General Manager, and General Manager sat together and went over the average revenue for the past three years. It was discovered a need for budget cuts and to exercise constraint in spending:

--Staffing was cut and the level of service was decreased. However, some efficiencies were created, such as the developing the on-line Newsletter instead of a printed Newsletter, which saved hundreds of hours of staff time.

--Free teleconferencing services were made available.

--Money was saved on travel as the office arranged flights for BOT members, using points from American Express miles and making reservations far in advance.

A slide presentation was made. The main points are summarized as follows:

--S.L.A.A. was \$25,000 in debt, however, soon contributions came in and large literature orders came in, relieving this debt;

--Sales have increased as a result of the new online store;

--It is easier to get literature and merchandise with easier shipping methods.

After several questions clarifying the meaning of the charts on the slides, the General Manager shared information regarding the current expenses: Cost of Goods Sold; Travel for BOT;

Conference committee expenses; Facilities and equipment, that includes rent, utilities, and technology; General Office Expenses, which include cost of printed items, such as *the Journal*, computer supplies, packaging supplies, consumable supplies, postage, payroll.

There was a comment that *the Journal* should be considered as cost of goods sold and to capitalize the lease over one year. It was agreed that *the Journal* needs to develop an accounting system that would include toner, staff time, and materials.

There was an observation that BOT Committee expenses seemed low. The chair responded by saying that there is a volunteer webmaster that puts in 30-40 hours a week working on the website.

A question about rent was raised. The chair responded by saying that a 10-year lease was signed when moved to San Antonio, however, this has caused a problem, since the staff is small, and the space is too large. The BOT is looking at moving to a smaller office space. If we receive more revenue, the staff can stay in the current space. It was acknowledged that the expenses in Boston were larger than in San Antonio.

One change needed was to change shipping, which is now different from sending everything UPS. The savings as a result of this change should soon be seen. In reference to the Revenue and Expense slide, monies were spent as summarized: Annual Business Meeting; Replenished inventory; Increase in cash reserves, however the office would like to have two months worth of expenses – needs to be up to \$50,000.

Other comments made by the BOT and the FWS Staff during the session are compiled and summarized:

- We are no longer in debt.
- The leasing company for the copier and the FWS staff are working toward resolution of the lease.
- The BOT is looking for an independent auditor to create audited financial statements.
- What the FWS office will do with increased monies is summarized as follows: Increase staffing (moderate) 20/30 hour week at \$12/hr.; and needs to continue to develop cash reserve.
- The Call Squad made calls to representatives of Intergroups all over the world to get information about what the Intergroups need from the BOT. This information was compiled and the results shared in an article in the FWS Newsletter.
- Revenue increases when morale increases. Efforts are best spent to carry the message with increased public outreach efforts.
- Intergroup feedback regarding what literature is needed helps to target the production of literature.
- 12 Step calls are the duty of the Intergroups and there was a suggestion for Intergroups to make local information on websites more available.

Participants made several suggestions and comments, which are summarized:

- Prudent reserve should be first priority.
- There is a need to get outside professional help to audit finances and to help with operational policies.
- There is a need for Intergroups and local groups to take responsibility for service and member retention.
- Give staff a cost of living increase.
- There is a need for more volunteers to carry the message.
- We need to budget for a webmaster in the future.
- FWS to use resources to find what is effective in growing the organization from other Intergroups and help Intergroups to replicate that.
- Develop resources to assist our membership in doing 12 Step calls. There is a request for personal stories to be sent to Bob F., as he is developing a site on the S.L.A.A. website for outreach.
- Use the resources already available to us. Take a newcomer for coffee after the meeting, pick up the telephone and call a member, use the internet meetings.
- Get back to basics.
- We need to support the projects outlined.

Announcements were made and the session ended.

Wednesday July 16, 2008 General Assembly 1:15-3:15pm

The micro for this session was Dan A., the macro Anthony P., the back-up was Stephen S. and the record keeper was Mariam. Vote counters were Tom F. and Garry K. and the Spiritual Reminder was Lark A. The 12 Steps were read and it was determined there was a quorum. There is a motion on the BMIS addendum that was passed out. Phase I process reviewed. Dan A. could not micro this session as he was the originator of the motion, so Andrew led this part of the session. Phase I began for disposing of motions without discussion.

Discussion was requested for **Motion 08n11**, so it was moved to Phase II.

08n01 Issue for Discussion:

[This IFD is the first of three closely related IFD's regarding F.W.S. contribution policy.]

What should be the policy regarding the maximum amount individuals may contribute to Fellowship-Wide Services? In particular:

What should be the maximum amount an individual may contribute directly to the Fellowship-Wide Services general fund in any given fiscal year? (*Board of Trustees*)

There was a motion to resume discussion on 08n01. The motion failed: 8-28-5. Participants moved on to 08n02.

08n02 Issue for Discussion

[This IFD is the second of three closely related IFD's regarding F.W.S. contribution policy.]

What should be the policy regarding the maximum amount individuals may contribute to Fellowship-Wide Services? In particular:

Should there be a separate policy regarding contributions to the Augustine Fellowship Prudent Reserve Fund? If so, should there be a limit on the amount an individual may contribute directly to the Augustine Fellowship Prudent Reserve Fund in any given fiscal year? If there should, what should that limit be? (*Board of Trustees*)

Committees gave committee feedback. They are summarized:

- CSTC- Consider Traditions 1, 5, 7, 12.
- CFC- Should be kept the same, no limit for cap.

A participant asked for the Traditions earlier referenced to be read. This was done. Questions of clarity were asked and answered. People were given one minute to provide feedback. Comments are summarized:

- Tradition 12 referenced, donors should remain anonymous and there should be no cap.
- This only comes into play when the Fellowship is in distress.
- No cap on individual contributions.
- Generate revenue from the reserve fund.
- It does not make sense to put a cap.

At this time, it was voted to spend 5 more minutes on this issue.

- Put a double blind system in place, donors remain anonymous and there would be no cap.
- As long as donations are anonymous and there are no conditions attached, there should be no need for a cap.
- Anonymity goes both ways. There are caps in other organizations.
- There are two reasons to have a cap, the possibility of buying policy and using the financial gift to buy policy and that a person with enormous financial contribution takes undue influence.

The discussion was ended as time allotted was met.

08n03 Issue for Discussion

[This IFD is the third of three closely related IFD's regarding F.W.S. contribution policy.]

What should be the policy regarding earmarked contributions for special projects? In particular, should F.W.S. either solicit or accept earmarked contributions for special projects? (*Board of Trustees*)

Committee Discussion:

- CSTC- Consider Traditions 1, 5, 7, and 12.
- CFC- There is currently a specific limit and extra funds are available. Maintain current policy.
- BOT- Persons on the June 14, 2008 teleconference wishes to establish a long term policy and that consultation process is underway.
- Board policy is not to accept earmarked funds.

Delegate Discussion:

- There is a legal issue if there are earmarked funds.
- This is not a burdensome requirement, there is solicitation for a specific project where funds are under funded and this overextends the Fellowship and undue influence would be the greatest expectation.
- Earmark.
- Should fund for special projects rather than put into prudent reserve.
- Support earmarking special projects, especially ones that originate from the Fellowship.
- We can figure out ways to fund our own projects without funds being handed to us.

Discussion was ended as the time allotted was met.

08n04 Issue for Discussion:

The Board of Trustees would like to establish a process by which the Board and Conference can jointly review and oversee the creation of new website content by the Web Task Force of the Board Public Relations Committee. In particular, the Board is considering the following process:

- The Board Public Relations Committee would review all additions or alterations to the F.W.S. website that significantly add to or alter the message or recovery content of the website.
- The Board Public Relations Committee would report to at least one of the active Conference Committees, and to the full Board of Trustees, on all additions or alterations that are reviewed and both the Board and the Conference committee could, if they chose, comment on changes to the website and request alterations or deletions. (It is not clear which committee would be best suited to this task. CIC, CLC, and CSTC have all been considered.)
- The review of the BPRC and subsequent oversight by the full Board and Conference Committee would primarily focus on whether or not new website content was in keeping with the 12 Traditions of S.L.A.A. and the recovery message of our 12 Steps.

- The BPRC and all other Board and Conference members involved in this review and oversight process would strive as much as possible for consensus on all additions and alterations.
- Any member of the Board or the Conference Committee could at any time request that BPRC review additions or alterations not deemed by BPRC to warrant review.
- Whenever possible and appropriate the Web Task Force should include the chair of the BPRC and a liaison from the relevant Conference Committee.

We would like to implement a process along these lines on a trial basis during the 2008-2009 ABM-year and then continue the discussion at the 2009 ABM prior to establishing a permanent process. (*Board of Trustees*)

Committee Feedback:

- CIC- Act as a primary review committee
- CSTC- Consider Traditions 2, 5, and 9.
- CJC- Consider the intent of the IFD.
- CLC- Post literature that does not have conflict with copyright.
- CDC- Diversity committee would like to be considered in review and content.

Delegate Discussion:

- Suggest that committees directly affected by the proposal are considered for feedback.
- Encourage those that have knowledge to serve on the internet committee.
- Board Public Relations Committee would determine when new content should be reviewed; however, members may find those things significant and bring to committee's attention.
- There is no procedure if this is written in another language.
- The internet is a place where people can find help. Writers should write, translators translate, and committee reviews.
- It takes time for literature to get Conference approval. There needs to be a speed up process.
- The Literature Committee has developed a new process; this will be emailed to you.
- I agree that the internet is a powerful tool of communication, but I am uncomfortable with a subcommittee and giving the BOT full power of what is put on the internet.
- They can take content and translate into their language. There is an approval process for this.

This item was closed as time allotted was met. Announcements were made and this session ended.

Wednesday, July 17, 2008 General Assembly 3:30-5:15

The micro for this session was Anthony P., the macro was Ava M. The vote counters are Megan F. and Monique S. The timekeeper was Sam A. Quorum was met. There was five more minutes allotted to addressing 08n04 (See Above).

- Supportive information is needed.
- Content on the website is Conference approved. A lot of documentation is not Conference approved.
- I like the idea of committees being involved.
- There should be something that indicates a document not to be produced.

The discussion was ended as time allotted was met.

08n05 Issue for Discussion:

What can be done to enable our program to reach more sex and love addicts? (*Bob M., Atherton, CA—Board Finance & Operating Committee Member*)

Committee Discussion:

- CDC- Through literature and pamphlets with diversity. Gender irrelevant should be relevant. International growth perhaps Conference work with internet committee. Translation process is a 10 step process. Make a translation subcommittee.
- CFC- Explore pamphlet handling though fulfillment center.
- CSTC- Consider Traditions 1, 5, 7, and 11.
- CDC- Retain the existing membership.

Delegate Discussion:

- Reach the needs of members and addicts that still suffer. Identify if Intergroups have a BOT liaison. Assist in the development of new Intergroups. Pool resources.
- Appropriate milestones in the Fellowship are not for those that want it, but need it.
- Increases web presence could help the Public Information Committee.
- Pop-ups for those that are acting out.
- Service work and more information on how to get a new meeting started. Make materials more people friendly.
- Make it attractive, then they'll come and stay.
- Online directory made a difference.
- A new person shows up at an S.L.A.A. meeting and no one talks to them. How do we deal with those that still suffer? There are cultural factors not addressed.
- Encourage others.

- In UK, we bombard professionals with information, we make 12 Step calls to 1st timers, we exchange information about what works in our meetings with other Intergroups, and we pool resources. I will take home the idea of a European Conference.
- If you have a good idea, how do you implement it? Does this organization have the resources it needs?
- Do we have a home for those in healthy relationships?
- Professionals are mailed information once a year.
- We need to have sponsors. Very few women are willing to sponsor.
- It is up to us to use the resources and get the publicity.
- We sent out guidelines as to how Intergroups can do Outreach.
- The diversity within us, make sure all meetings are safe for all people. Don't create a judgmental atmosphere.

Discussion was ended as time allotted was met.

08n06 Issue for Discussion:

What can be done to increase the amount received in donations to the Fellowship to better be able to support our primary purpose of carrying our message to the sex and love addict who still suffers? *(Bob M., Atherton, CA—Board Finance & Operating Committee Member)*

Committee Discussion:

- CSTC: Consider Traditions 5, 7, and 11.
- CFC: Communicate to Intergroups, create specific fundraising days, publicity opportunity investment, free up office staff, standardize publication packet.

Delegate Discussion:

- Money and time was spent on addiction. Have to be willing to contribute a fraction of time to service.
- Concise and friendly statement to be read at meeting about what Intergroup does.
- Where is the money going? Why is it being spent? Still work to be done to know where money from fundraising goes.
- 60/40 needs to be applied at local level. The 60/40 pamphlet is available.
- Have a 12 Stepper run the office.
- Everyone should sign up for the FWS Newsletter.
- 12 Step groups are a different entity from other non-profit groups.
- Different from other organizations, there are many who can afford contributions.
- Go above the one dollar contribution.

Discussion was ended as time allotted was met.

08n07 Issue for Discussion:

Discuss for purposes of clarity what the Basic Text says, pages 128 – 133, about special purpose meetings and special interest groups. What assumptions do the original authors make about special purpose and special interest groups? Has our fellowship's experience since publication of our Basic Text supported these assumptions? Considering what the Basic Text says, can more be said about how these meetings may help or hinder our fellowship as a whole and/or a members' individual recovery? (*Brian R., West Palm Beach, FL—Members Retention Committee Chair*)

This item was withdrawn by the originator.

08n08 Issue for Discussion:

The item is a draft pamphlet (see Attachment 2) titled "Romanic Obsession". It contains information that describes the traits and qualities of a romantic obsession; it also provides a list of the S.L.A.A. recovery tools that can be used during recovery from romantic obsession. (*Conference Literature Committee*)

Committee Discussion:

- CLC- Want your input.

Discussion from Delegates:

- How to make information more people friendly. This pamphlet does. I would translate it and put it on the website.
- Identification is well done. Work on specific solutions.
- In favor of the efforts. Constructive with the Fellowship.
- Needs to be voted in before next year.
- Pamphlet received favorably.
- Spouse that has this addiction, there are those that will benefit from this pamphlet.
- Language that ties all program that addresses the core problems.
- Love it, grateful for it.
- Liked this pamphlet, legal consequences are highlighted.

Discussion was ended as time allotted was met.

08n09 Issue for Discussion:

The item is a draft pamphlet (see Attachment 3) titled "People of Color". It was originally developed by a subcommittee and contains information and language that is inclusive. Social and cultural issues are delineated and explored. It also refers to S.L.A.A. recovery tools that can be used during recovery. (*Conference Literature Committee*)

Committee Discussion:

- CDC- People of color may not feel safe to reveal their addiction. Need for people of color, some not attending meetings because of their discomfort, ensure Fellowship is really diverse.
- CLC- Really wants your input.
- CSTC- Brainstormed about Traditions and communicated with writing committee.

Delegate Discussion:

- Consistent with our literature, will be read by people in other countries, more descriptive.
- Well written in content.
- Specific to us, creating more segregation rather than unity, cultural and sexual stereotypes.
- Opposed to their position in 2005.
- Intergroups are predominantly white males and people of color are uncomfortable.

There were announcements and a brief break.

The BGNC addressed nominations to the BOT and the requirements for the position. The nomination form was distributed. Procedure for the nominee's interview was reviewed. Those who are running for re-election were introduced. Voting procedures were reviewed.

Thursday July 17, 2008 General Assembly 1:15-3:15pm

The micro for this session was Stephen S., the macro was Ava M., and the backup was Sam A. The record keeper was Mariam. Vote counters were Roland O. and Derek O., the Spiritual Reminder was Eric G. and the Timekeeper was Andrew H.

The Traditions were read and the 12 Steps read in Russian. Quorum was established.

08n09 Issue for Discussion (continued):

Five additional minutes were allotted to further address this IFD 08n09.

Delegate Discussion:

- We get stronger by acknowledging our differences. I think having a pamphlet like this is important. The pamphlet needs to reflect group conscience on content. We need to focus on what unites us.
- A diversity pamphlet might be better. This is a conflict of Tradition 1. A special interest meeting might be a wonderful place to start, but it is a goal that as we grow in recovery we need to be in meetings that are all inclusive.

- These are complex issues, and this pamphlet is needed. People of Color have left as they do not feel comfortable that there is nothing that represents them in meetings or literature.
- This does not contradict Tradition 1. Acknowledging this pamphlet is a way of showing acceptance of others which is unifying. It is suggested that we write somewhere at the beginning of the pamphlet that we are sex and love addicts trying to reach out, not experts.

This issue was ended as time allotted was met.

08n10 Issue for Discussion:

The CLC requests input on the draft booklet "Tools of the Program" (see Attachment 4). The CLC also is inviting contributions on tools listed in the booklet that have yet to be written as well as suggestions for additional tools. Further, the CLC invites input and suggestions on the title of the draft booklet; i.e. Tools of Recovery, Tools of S.L.A.A., Tools of the S.L.A.A. Program, etc.

Committee discussion:

- CSTC-Consider Traditions 3, 5, and 6.
- CLC- Look forward to receiving feedback from the Conference at large. If there is any tool not thought of, please send comments to CLC.

Discussion by Delegates:

- Be consistent when typing *the Journal*. Using the term "seasoned" member may not always be an appropriate word.
- Encourage the writers to focus on the 12 Steps and Traditions as the solution to recovery in S.L.A.A. We are not professionals. I encourage brevity.
- People work through the Steps differently. Speaking of writing and journaling one way is not appropriate. A quote from A.A. is incorrect – it is one "alcoholic..." The common denominator is powerlessness. A sponsor is a person who takes you through the Steps.
- Happy with the content. There needs to be serious thought to the sequencing of tools.
- The blessings are a positive focus and healthy behavior. We can use A.A. literature to help form our own.
- How did the tools get selected? Differentiate between a tool and what I receive as a result of working with the tools.
- Very positive tool that can be used.
- This is welcomed and well thought out.
- Please send all feedback to the CLC for consideration. May list the tools in alphabetical order.

- Use the 5 "S"s might be additional tools that can be included. Keep it simple as to what the message is.
- The Pocket tool kit and this pamphlet "tools" may be redundant.

Discussion was ended as time allotted was met.

08n11- Motion: The hiring of professional writers and/or editors on a fee basis, to ensure prompt, efficient handling of writing and editorial responsibilities for S.L.A.A. literature projects, is in accordance with principles of S.L.A.A. and the group conscience of the S.L.A.A. Fellowship. (BOT).

Stephen S. stepped down as the micro for this discussion and Ava M. became the micro. Sam A. served as macro.

Committee Reports:

- CIC- support that it would positively affect S.L.A.A. on the internet
- CDC- Have very best literature within our traditions, we can employ special workers, we need outside help. With traditions and committee input, we have checks and balances in place and this would reflect group conscience.
- CSTC/12 & 12- Support that we are actively soliciting sharing sheets. If motion is approved, those on subcommittee will help to solicit proposals for a writer/editor. If it does not pass, we will reassess the project. It does not discuss particulars. Decision will not bind BOT.
- CSTC- Consider Traditions 5, 8, and 7.
- CLC- Interested in continuing dialog that results in further development of this concept, submitted through Conference for discussion.
- BOT- For clarification: motion does not address when or how a professional writer/editor would be hired nor intended funding. Existing service structure will enable us to handle those concerns. We need to know if hiring writers can be done. A.A. has used professional writers since 1950s.
- Motion made that we are in need of literature and we'll need to solicit professional writers.

The process provided for the motion to have 3 pros and 3 cons.*

- Pro- Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country. Those passionate words were written by a single writer that was schooled in writing. Have writers available to write powerful literature.
- Pro- Concepts suggests that BOT has responsibilities for this. We can have special workers that are paid.

- Pro- Primary purpose to carry to the sex and love addict that still suffers. Can't produce literature that we need. Happy for submissions for the 12 and 12. In favor of professional writers/editors.
- Pro- Hiring of professional writers in accordance with Tradition 8 (long form read).
- Pro- One of our tools is to ask for help when you need help. This is an area where we need help. Let's ask for help.

Note there were no cons in this discussion.*

First vote: 38-0-1, the motion passes. Stephen S. is moved back into the micro position and Ava M. back to the macro.

08n12 Issue for Discussion

As a means of reducing expenses, request the S.L.A.A. BOT to approach the S.A.A. governing board, the S.C.A. governing board, and any other organizations deemed compatible by the Trustees, with the following suggestions for discussion:

1. that S.A.A., S.C.A., and S.L.A.A. share office space, office equipment, and any other resource that is neutral to the Fellowship itself,
2. that S.A.A., S.C.A., and S.L.A.A. share warehouse space and fulfillment/shipping services for literature, and
3. that S.A.A., S.C.A., and S.L.A.A., while maintaining separate websites, share web hosting costs.

This IFD in no way suggests any overlap of organizations, only sharing of professional services for cost savings. (Lee W., Oak Park, IL)

Committee Reports:

- CSTC- Consider Traditions 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10.
- CFC- In favor as written unanimously. Request to obtain information, not harmful.
- CIC- See very little cost savings to share internet hosting.

Delegate Discussion:

- This is not good use of resources for the BOT to do. It is confusing which organization is involved. Requires an additional office move.
- We must have a clear definition and clear mandate of who is responsible and who has ultimate authority to decide what resources are neutral. Will delegate members have say in this process if decision is made?
- Thought it may be good to look into this, but we need to look at other groups, such as, S.A. and S.R.A. May be a good step and assimilate them into the same office.

- We are looking for information. FWS packing boxes, selling goods, and maintaining account receivables. If take out of house, it might free up time for the true task of FWS— carrying the message and not retailing.
- Fulfillment of literature request is main success of similar organizations, providing literature and policing copyright. If you share fulfillment, then do not pick ones that are similar to ours and blurring the task.
- There is a question of which fellowships would be involved.
- There is a potential financial entanglement with other organizations. If they back out and leave us holding the bag, we will have a financial predicament.
- I need not react with fear. If anything is undertaken, it is of the utmost importance to communicate clearly to our membership what we are doing.
- There is no one that knows that I am a member. This would connect us with other communities, and I have concern about anonymity. Struggles with communication within ourselves. If we add other communities, we add additional struggles.
- We have discussed this with S.A.A. and they are not interested. With literature fulfillment and retail, there is an element of contact with the Fellowship.
- Timing of this is premature. Open up communications.
- Decoupling from other sex fellowship. We could outsource the packing and shipping.
- Communicate with the BOT chair.

This discussion was ended as time allotted was met.

08n13 Issue for Discussion

Change the name of the entire fellowship to “Love, Sex and Romance Recovery Anonymous” (Andy E., Greater NY Area Intergroup chair, Ayana P., Greater NY Area Intergroup delegate)*

Committee Discussion:

- CSTC- Consider Traditions 1, 3, 5, 7, 10, and 11.
- CDC- Against the change, would mean an enormous cost, love encompasses it all. If we change the name, we will not include some, where do we stop adding on names.
- CLC- Requires unknown resources and extensive expenditure of resources.

*Note: *Six motions were made previously and are listed in the Index of Motions of the CSM. 2 withdrawn and 4 failed.*

Delegate Discussion:

- This is a promotion of denial. We would have to add other dimensions. This seems like it is more about money than people.
- I appreciated that this be submitted as an IFD rather than a motion. I could easily identify with both.

- I would call it Disorders of Intimacy Anonymous. The bang is not worth the buck. This is an expensive proposal.
- I am a shame and fantasy addict, I have no expectation of this Fellowship to be all of what I need it to be. We need to keep it as simple as possible, otherwise risk diluting the message.
- I did not know how to love myself and through program, I am learning to love myself.
- Many people feel the name is not me. I am not an addict. But this place is rich in recovery. How can we spread the message to more people? This is a deterrent to more people.
- Great idea and reasoning, but at great cost. If I cannot say I am an addict than I am not ready for recovery
- I didn't agree at first, but it might be easier for people to come into the program, without the word addict. It is shameful to attend a meeting with that name; this might be a better way to reach out to more people.
- If we were to indulge a name change, would lose momentum in our effort to grow.
- The name change caters to the unrecovering addict. Addict expresses the gravity of the condition and the hope that I can recover.
- Did not understand what was wrong until addict was put in. It is an addiction and I can recover
- Sense of shame is a denial of what we are and of Step 3.
- Calling yourself an alcoholic was a stigma. Shame and stigma of love and sex addict may some day be removed.
- Name change bigger than I can conceive. Labels have a lot of power. Not sure of what label is the best label for my pattern, but I do not hear inclusivity now.
- Solution is more powerful than how you identify yourself. There is a romance pamphlet and might be Ok to have romance in there, but it may be divisive.
- Appreciate the thought. It could be used as a statement the various ways we are afflicted.

Discussion was ended as the time allotted was met.

A new schedule was distributed due to a time change needed to accommodate the location. Announcements were made, the session was closed, and there was time for a break.

Thursday July 17, 2008 General Assembly 3:30-5:30

Ava M. was the micro, Sam A. was the macro, and Rita H. was the backup.

08n14 Issue for Discussion

1. The Montreal Intergroup applies for funding of \$11,500.00 from within the Fellowship to continue the process of translating from English to French at least the first 159 pages of the Basic Text of S.L.A.A. [all but the stories].
2. Of the total of 159 pages, (66) pages are already translated and considered CAL [Conference-Approved Literature]. These pages need to be reviewed and edited.
3. This leaves (93) important pages to be translated.
4. This funding may come from FWS, and/or Intergroups interested in helping the suffering sex and love addicts/anorexics in predominantly French-speaking areas, i.e., Quebec, France, Belgium, Caribbean, Africa, all continents.
5. We appeal to the BOT, FWS and Intergroups to give us suggestions on how best to raise this money within the Spirit of Traditions Seven and Five, One Page at a Time @\$70/page.
(D.A.S.A./S.L.A.A. Montreal Intergroup, Canada)

Committee Discussion:

- CDC- There is discussion about having a translation subcommittee within the CDC.

Delegate Discussion:

- We are working on an electronic version of the Basic Text.
- Will more problems will be raised in putting it into a different language with software? More problems.
- Funding can come from proceeds from existing translations and can be used towards a new translation.
- This is a good project to designate as a special project, a project looking for funding.
- IFD comes as a necessity. The Basic Text is an essential tool. Not clear on the timetable for funds, but I support the project.
- We have received mail from Italy. They are doing a translation of the Basic Text in Italian and were wondering how to get board approval. We have a strong need and I hope the BOT will make it a priority.
- The Intergroup is looking at the cost. We can look to the experience strength and hope of Germany which already has a translation. How did they do it?
- A ten step translation process document is passed out. We are trying to simplify the process.
- We can give support; we are not involved in the translation of that group, a Conference of that language group gives it approval, not a bunch of English speakers.
- How do we decide which language we fund first? Is it to the group that is the most organized?
- Possibly Intergroups can donate \$200 for French translation.
- Switzerland added to beneficiaries list for the effort. Support the Basic Text in your native language. The Germans have their own literature committee.
- French would be 1st in line. Russia has nothing ready.

- Approved by specific delegation. The copyright for the text in any translation remains with S.L.A.A. This is a collaborative effort.
- Haven't had the chance to think of this extensively and not prepared to answer the questions.
- There are three French groups in Montreal. Being linked with other FWS members creates a sense of unity and connection to the Conference in getting this project done. We are the "we" that needs to get the work done and get the funding.
- The creation of special fund that would exist solely to fund literature creation. Fund would act like a bank. Money (a loan) would be to produce literature and then the sales from literature would go back in fund.
- Special project must be neutral as all translations are equal. Willing to put your money where your mouth is. We have three literature pieces in English. Are you willing to put your money into funding literature that is not yet written over projects that are already written?
- I applaud the efforts of the BOT in getting the call squad up and going. It is operating in other languages.
- Maybe we can figure out what we can do and what we can afford.
- There is no substitute for a fellow addict taking another addict through this program. People working through the difficulty of not having a literature tool and finding another way to do it. Natural selection will work as to what to prioritize.
- Carry message to addict that still suffers no matter what language. What am I going to do to make that happen?
- France, Belgium, and Switzerland—let's get on board and get it translated.

Discussion was ended as time allotted was met.

Announcements were made.

Friday July 18, 2009 General Assembly 9:00-10:00

The session was opened with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer. The micro was Juanita J., the macro was Eric G., and the back-up was Megan F. The record keeper was Mariam. Vote counters were John S. and Linda Hamilton. The spiritual reminder was Katherine B. After the Traditions were read and the 12 Steps read in Russian, the session began. The BOT election was held. While ballots were counted, information regarding the work of the Conference committees was given, e.g. conference calling and budgets. Requests were made of the delegates in preparation for the committee's work: budget requests, rosters, committee responsibilities, goals, identification of chairs and co-chairs, the time of the first meeting, and agenda. It was announced that approximately \$3500 was made in the auction on Thursday night.

The results of the BOT election were announced. Dan A. and Richard C. are elected to three-year terms ending 2011; and, Liz D. and Rita H. appointments to the board are confirmed with terms ending in 2009 and 2010, respectively.

Announcements were made and the session was closed for committee meetings and a lunch break.

Friday July 18, 2009 General Assembly 1:00-2:30pm

This session was opened with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer. The micro was Sam M., newly elected CCC chair, the macro was Dan A., newly elected BOT chair, and the back-up was Anthony P. The timekeeper was Megan F., the spiritual reminder was Garry K., and the vote counters were Katherine B. and Liz D. The BOT and Conference Committee gave their reports:

BOT

Dan A. was voted as BOT chair. Chris D. was appointed to a 2-year position on the BOT term ending 2010 (to be confirmed ABM 2009). The BGNC discussed a situation where the BOT is not trying to bypass the confirmation process and where the delegates will be able to confirm board appointments and committee assignments.

- Dan A. and Rita H are appointed to the BGNC.
- Richard C. and Liz D. are appointed to the BFOC.
- Stephen S, Bob F., and Chris D. are appointed to the BPRC.

The Conference Committee Liaisons assignments are as follows:

- CJC- Dan A.
- CBC- Rita H.
- CCC- Rita H.
- CAC- Richard C.
- CFC- Richard C.
- CIC- Stephen S.
- CLC- Liz D.
- CMRC- Bob F.
- CPIC- Stephen S.
- CSTC- Bob F.
- CHRC- Richard C.
- CICC- Rita H.
- CDC- Richard C.
- CPOC- Liz D.
- The CSPC, CSC, and the CIFC are inactive.

FWS

The General Manager has a plan to work with accountant and CPA to get books in order, develop a new payment gateway and credit card processing for store, meet with the printer to get rates down on printing and pamphlets, research a new vendor to produce medallions and chips, focus on stabilization of office, and research a new phone system.

Conference Committee Reports

CAC- Ayana P., the vice chair, reporting for Ron G., the chair. The upcoming project: Solutions pamphlet requested a budget of \$500. The 12 and 12/ Anorexia Content requested a budget of \$750. Next meeting July 26th @ 11a EST; Ron G. is coordinating.

CBC – Barry B. is the chair. There are two projects: 1) revise By-Laws in general and suggest changes if needed; 2) revise A.A. Concepts in relation to our present By-Laws. Requested a budget of \$450. Next meeting August 17th @10:00 EST; Barry coordinating.

CCC – Sam M. is the chair. There are seven projects : 1)Leadership Mentoring; 2)Revise Conference Service Manual; 3) Conference Newsletter; 4) Develop and refine voting process; 5)Business Meeting Item Summary revise and reference process; 6)maintain current Conference roster; 7) Annual Business Meeting scheduling. Requested a budget of \$450. Next meeting August 3rd @ 10:00 CDT; Sam coordinating.

CDC – Lark A. is the chair. There are five projects: 1) one international issue led by Roland O. (\$100) how to get delegates from around the world to this Conference. 2)Katherine B. (\$100) Russian language website. 3)French translation (\$100) making phone calls to French speaking S.L.A.A. community and mailing of literature. 4)Transgender Pamphlet – Maria (\$100). People of Color Pamphlet by someone on committee (\$50), Juanita agreed to be chair. Total budget \$850. Next meeting August 16th @ 8:30a PST; 11:30aEST and 5:30p Europe.

CFC – Anthony P. is the chair. Will assist CCC and BOT, as requested, on issues of a financial nature, specifically on budget requests. Will assist BOT to find valued accountant/CPA to help with upcoming audit and financial review, researching fulfillment center and associated costs. Requested a budget of \$225. Next meeting August 24th @ 10a CST, Anthony coordinating.

CHRC – A representative of the CAC has created a subcommittee dealing with healthy relationships. There is no report from CHRC. It was noted that the CAC may have a subcommittee dealing with healthy relationships. However, there is a Conference committee called the CHRC that is confirmed by the Conference. The Conference decides whether or not a committee is confirmed, removed, or altered.

CICC – Jenny D. is the chair. Projects include 1) a long-term goal to establish websites at all intergroup levels; Work closely with CIC and BOT call squad; in conjunction with Conference committee and BOT; 2) the committee will craft a survey to gather best practices at the intergroup level, to include ways to increase 7th Tradition, outreach events, and general ways of carrying the message; 3) begin implementation of best practices. Requested budget is \$500. Next meeting August 10th @ 10a PST.

CIC – Eric G. is the chair. Projects include: Focus on internet as a source for recovering addict, understanding the internet does not replace traditional ways of getting information; new website content can be distributed to relevant committee for speedy approval; On-line meetings as an access to a larger Fellowship; Introduce by phone non-English links. Requested budget is \$100. Next meeting August 17th @ 1p EDT, Eric G. coordinating.

CLC – Leon C. is the chair. Projects include: Feedback Tools of Recovery booklet (\$250); 6 secondary goals – index of Basic Text (\$250); People of Color (\$250); Romantic Obsession (\$250); transcription project (\$300); develop Crosstalk Feedback & Triggering Language Pamphlet (\$200); Measuring and Celebrating Progress (\$350); Sex and Love Step Recovery Booklet (\$500); Measuring Progress Yardstick Pamphlet (\$150). Next meeting August 9th @ 12:00 EST.

CMRC – Mike J. and Pam C. are the co-chairs. Projects include: Produced steps 1, 2 & 3 chips and hope to complete steps 4-12 (approval has been given and additional funding is needed- a slug is \$250, 9 more chips needed [a minimum of 1,000 printed] @ \$4,200. We have \$348 in reserve asking for \$4,200); stories project- contact members of long standing and survey why they're still in program (\$200 calling cards); sponsorship workbook started last year to support member who's beginning sponsorship (\$100); surveying project what new members look for (\$500 mail outs). Requested budget is \$5,000. Next meeting August 10th @ 2:30CST.

CPOC – Derek O. is the chair. Goal is to carry the message to the suffering addict inside and outside the legal system. Projects: develop response system; compile a list of correctional institutions committee has dealt within the past; build three starter kits 1) starting and running meetings in prison 2) starting pen pal to inmates 3) resources to recently released; work with CLC in getting plan language of Chapter 4 ready for Conference approval next ABM; work with web task force in developing visibility of prison outreach on the FWS website. Requested budget is \$800 (\$200/ea. starter kit). Next meeting August 10th @ 5:00p EST.

CPIC – Monique S. is the chair. Projects: create kits (instructions how to use kit, sign-up sheet of who's willing to participate in outreach panel to treatment centers, literature, free to print for the professional, cover letter to give to professional of FWS business card to be given personally to the professional to establish a relationship). Focus on Treatment center outreach first, then to religious and legal arenas. Requested budget is \$500. Next meeting August 17th @ 1p.

CSTC – Ava M. is the chair and Steve S. is the vice chair of the sub-committee, Tradition Study. This subcommittee will continue to address real time tradition questions from individuals, committees, FWS, or BOT; continue to address literature tradition inquiries from same group (\$0); new goal is a tradition study discussion via conference call for those that wish to contribute to the 12 and 12 and don't want to write down but are willing to discuss via conference call (\$300 for transcription). John S. is the chair for the 12 and 12 Sub-committee. There are 2 Projects: collect an additional 325 sharing sheets (Allotted \$1,000 budget request for scholarships for writing workshops and if your group is thinking of writing workshops, funds would be available for that need). Note that transcribing has been voluntary and that may not last long. The second project is finding a Writer/editor for 12 and 12 and to find a structured process request for proposal, distribute to those interested, one set of interviews by 12 and 12 subcommittee, 2nd set committee made up of Conference committees and finally by the board since financial issue.

Requested budget is \$1400. Next meeting of the 12 and 12 Subcommittee is August 23rd @ 1:00CST; Traditions Subcommittee is August 24th @ 3:00CST.

CJC – Andrew H. is the interim chair. There was a reminder that the 1991 Conference committed time, energy, and prayer to see that *the Journal* is a critical tool of recovery and growth of Fellowship. Projects: setting policy and procedure for *the Journal* operations have web hosting (\$70); staffing search marketing director, managing editor, editorial assistance and fulfillment manager. Requested budget is \$150 for postage and distribution; \$100 for general communication; Total \$320. Next meeting August 17th @ 6:00p EST; 5:00 CST; 4:00 MST & 3:00 PST.

There was a motion (that was seconded) to confirm all Conference Committees that reported at the Conference as well as those committees that did not report-the CHRC, CIFC, CMRBOTC, CSC, and the CSPC. Vote was 36-0-0. The motion passed.

After announcements and gratitude shared for the leadership and volunteers during the ABM, this session ended with the Serenity Prayer.