

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

## **Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes**

**July 14-17, 2009**

**Dayspring Episcopal Conference Center, E. Parrish FL USA**

Theme: The 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition: "Every S.L.A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions." (*S.L.A.A. Basic Text*)

### **Most used abbreviations:**

BOT – Board of Trustees

FWS – Fellowship-Wide Services

CCC – Conference Charter Committee

ABM – Annual Business Meeting

ABC/M – Annual Business Conference/Meeting

CSM – Conference Service Manual

### **Tuesday, July 14, 2009, General Assembly, 1:00-2:15pm**

After a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer, the chair of the Conference Charter Committee (CCC), Sam M. (micro) and the Board of Trustees (BOT) chair, Rita H. (macro) introduced themselves and welcomed the delegates, staff, observers, and volunteers to the 2009 S.L.A.A. Annual Business Conference/Meeting (ABC/M). The Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and the 12 Recommended Guidelines for Dealing with Media/Public were read. There were 42 seated delegates this year, including six international delegates from Ireland, England, Switzerland, France, and Canada. The quorum was 28. The BOT introduced themselves. Linda Hamilton, the General Manager (GM) of the Fellowship-Wide Services (F.W.S.) office introduced the staff, including the part-time members that were not present. Recognized was the recorder for the ABM. The delegates introduced themselves, after which a four-minute check – in session was held.

### **Annual Reports**

These reports were included in the packet and highlights are summarized here.

### **BOT Chair, BOT Committees Chairs and FWS Reports**

#### **Board of Trustees**

Rita H., BOT chair, welcomed all members of the Conference and shared gratitude for their service. She reminded the Conference that this ABM is the 25<sup>th</sup> ABM held of S.L.A.A. Highlights for the BOT Annual report included: BOT members needed to do double duty this year due to the loss of two BOT members leaving five; there was shared leadership and group conscience; last year, the BOT was not able to give

the Conference an audited report, but has filed IRS Statements for 2006-08 (in June-these are available in the office for review by any member); the BOT rehired the attorney, Valerie Jacoby (with SLAA from 1992-2006); the BOT will have to update copyrights and trademarks; the GM evaluation and staff evaluations have been started and completed in some instances. The BOT chair went to Texas in April to support the FWS office and staff and, while in Texas, visited the Austin, Dallas, and Houston Intergroups.

### **F.W.S. Office**

General Manager, Linda Hamilton gave the report. Highlights included: her appreciation of all help the FWS office has received throughout the year; the FWS office has four staff members which equals two full time staff; there is a new printer for pamphlets; new merchandise includes four new Step chips-4, 5, 6, 7; large Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions vinyl wall posters and three new recovery wrist bands with slogans; she requested feedback on the clay chips.

### **Board Finance and Operating Committee (BFOC)**

Richard C. gave the report. He shared there has been a lot of progress and that details will be included in a financial presentation later with a question and answer period for delegates. Members include:- Bob F.; Bob M.; John S.; Kevin M.; Anthony P.; and Linda Hamilton.

### **Board Governance and Nominating Committee (BGNC)**

Kim B. gave the report. She reminded the delegates of the need for BOT nominations and that the BOT is looking for non-SLAA members that may bring a professional set of skills to the BOT. She reported that the BGNC: worked with the By-Laws committee on technical changes; created a task force to work on the Twelve Concepts ( she also announced that a presentation on the 12 Concepts would be held later during the ABM); worked with the FWS Intergroup Call Squad; formed a Web Team to review the content of the FWS website.

### **Board Public Relations Committee (BPRC)**

Stephen S. gave the report. Highlights of the presentation and work of the BPRC included: Introducing, Deb W., the FWS Newsletter editor and announcing that the FWS Newsletter is now a task of the BPRC as the FWS staff cannot fulfill this duty; maintaining the website; transitioning the webmaster position from a member volunteer position for the past 18 months to a paid position (the FWS webmaster position is posted until September 1<sup>st</sup> and resumes are required); announcing that there is a subcommittee to handle requests and activities for recovery conventions with a reminder that 2011 is the S.L.A.A. 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary; announcing to all delegates the procedure on how to host an International Recovery Convention (IRC); and a mention Swedish filmmaker Pernille is doing a documentary on love addiction and that he asked if members of the fellowship would pass on the names of those who wished to be interviewed for the documentary.

## **Conference Committee Reports**

### **Conference Anorexia Committee (CAC)**

Ayana P. gave the report which included an overview of the work of the CAC and its several subcommittees which include: the website subcommittee (the subcommittee has no reason to meet yet), the email subcommittee (which addresses questions sent to the committee email address); the solutions pamphlet subcommittee (currently working on producing a draft pamphlet for recovery tools specific to anorexia); the healthy relationships subcommittee (which holds monthly teleconferences to produce literature); the sobriety definitions subcommittee; the Anorexia 1-2-3 subcommittee (working on a draft of Steps 1,2,3), the Institutional Flyer subcommittee (working on a pamphlet for professionals) and the 12&12 book meeting series to discuss Steps and Traditions as it relates to anorexia.

### **Conference By-Laws Committee (CBC)**

Barry B. gave the report. The CBC reviewed and studied the By-Laws making technical changes that resulted in a motion for the 2009 BMIS.

### **Conference Charter Committee (CCC)**

Sam M. gave the report. He reported that the CCC: held monthly meetings to plan and facilitate the ABM and Conference (e.g., scheduling, creating a new ABM binder); includes the BMIS subcommittee which reviewed ABM Motions and IFD submissions for inclusion on the BMIS (Sam shared a reminder that new items are welcomed until 7pm that evening); is working on an interim voting process in order to make decisions between ABMs; revised the CSM; is grateful to the editor of the Conference Newsletter, Rob K., but a new editor will be needed for this year; member roster work group (which reviews the process of producing the conference member roster) did not meet this year; formed the leadership mentoring subcommittee which became the basis of a reconstituted CSC.

### **Conference Diversity Committee (CDC)**

David B. gave the report. He reported that the CDC committee discusses the needs of people with diverse acting out patterns and to ensure that S.L.A.A. meets the needs of a diverse population; there is a lot of translation work needed and often the CDC is asked to talk about it and there is a motion on the 2009 BMIS that addressed this; there is a special interest subcommittee, to discuss reasons we might proactively support special interest meetings and how it is aligned with the Traditions.

*There was a break until 2:30pm followed by a presentation of the Twelve Concepts.*

### **BOT Twelve Concepts Presentation**

Rita H. served as the micro, Sam M. as the macro, and Anthony P. as the back-up. The presenters were Kim B. and Tom F. A Twelve Concepts package was handed out. The presentation included the following points:

- A review of the history of the Twelve Concepts in A.A.
- A review of the service structure
- The 12 Concepts provides a safe return to operating balance.
- Development of the Concepts Task Force (CTF) for adaption and adoption of 12 Concepts of A.A. for S.L.A.A. March 2008.
- Review of each Concept
- We need to educate ourselves about the Concepts of world-wide service and talk about them with others in order to make sound decisions and stay emotionally sober.

Questions and comments to the presenters from the Conference delegates:

- I object to the use of the words shall and should, we do not have to call them 12 Concepts, we could use "rules" for example.
- There are members on many committees and some members are burning out. There is a principle of rotation and sobriety guidelines.
- When will the first draft be complete? (The BGNC subcommittee, CTF, was formed in March 2008 and this presentation was suggested by the delegates last year. It is hoped that the CTF will make recommendations to BGNC and then BGNC to the BOT by the next Conference. The BOT are studying the Concepts and educating the members at the ABM so it will be an easier process to adapt and adopt).
- The Concepts remind us to let go of control and put responsibility where it is at.
- What documents do we have right now? Which ones are legal documents? It is important so specify which documents are legal documents and which are spiritual traditions. Please make sure this division is noted. In AA they have By-Laws, which are the legal documents and a conference charter which embodies the spiritual traditions.
- We make most of our money with literature sales and contributions. If sales and contributions drop, the BOT has the power to reallocate funds. Members have the authority and the responsibility to contribute or to withhold contributions.
- Are our documents the documents of the Fellowship or FWS? What are the differences between the A.A. Conference Charter vs. its By-Laws? Refer to General Service Manual of A.A. on pg. 99 as it pertains to the purpose, composition, and relationship of A.A. to its BOT and corporate services. There is a charter in the S.L.A.A. By-Laws that is in the S.L.A.A. ABM binder. The S.L.A.A. Articles of Incorporation and other legal documents are in the BOT Manual.

*After acknowledging the service of the ground transportation crew, Jack and Danette S., there was a break followed by a financial presentation.*

### **Financial Presentation**

Richard C. (chair of BFOC) and Linda Hamilton (General Manager of FWS office) were the presenters. Here are the highlights of the presentation:

- The BFOC, support staff, and office work closely with the GM supervisor who is also the BOT chair. The BOT chair spends two days on FWS and BOT business and there is talk to restructure this.
- What we learned from the 2008 ABM:
  - Need for Accountability and transparency
  - Need to get our financial and legal house in order
  - Need for professional help
- Finding accounting help:
  - Financial and compliance task force formed - FRC (Maria, Linda and Richard)
  - Created a Plan and timeline
  - Compiled List of 10 CPAs in San Antonio area
  - Created an Interview process conducted by Linda who interviewed all 10
  - Hired Randy Walker & Associates CPA to get taxes done within 12 months
- Getting Legal help
  - Valerie Jacoby, Esq. in Newton, MA, Rehired (former corporate counsel, 1992-2005)
- Progress in financial reporting and legal compliance
  - IRS tax returns completed June 09 for 2006-08
  - MA and TX state tax filings in progress
  - MA and TX state sales tax waiver in progress
  - Corporation reports for MA and TX in progress
  - 501 (c)(3) status check- taxes deductible
- Financial comparisons, 8 months in FY 09 (in GM's Annual Report)
  - Total contributions in FY 08- \$74.3K actual versus \$63.8K budgeted, = +\$10.5K (+16.5%)
  - Groups = \$40K (53.8%), Individuals = \$25K (33.6%), Intergroups = \$9.3K (12.6%)
  - Contribution vs. Sales- Contribution = \$74.3K (45%), Net sales = \$90.5K (55%)
- 2-year comparison of Total Contribution Income
  - \$74,309 in FY2008
  - \$74,134 in FY 2009
  - Total contribution income held steady
- FWS office operations
  - Staff:
    - Four staff, limited hours of staff, not a lot of hours, but a lot of work, one 40+ hours, one 30 hours, one 20 hours and one 10 hours
    - Need volunteers and this will be a focus this year
    - Converted film to discs
    - Large amount of money goes to shipping
    - Working on pamphlets in other languages
    - Now have a duplicating machine for CDs
    - Looking for a new payment gateway, we now pay 6% on all credit card purchases
    - Looking at inventory tracking systems

- Development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- *The Journal* is more cost effective now that the office is printing *the Journal*
- Prudent Reserve Fund Historic Performance
- \$232,000 total deposits into the fund
  - Less \$30,192 in total quarterly distributions from the fund
  - Less \$75,500 in emergency withdrawals from the fund
  - Absolute total value = \$126,308
  - Actual market value = \$124,412 as of 6/5/09
  - Capital loss = \$1,896 as of 6/5/09
  - Fund is held in Vanguard and is widely diversified.
  - This is not the time to do something different
- Future Priorities of the BOT
  - Promote automatic monthly contributions (1.1)
  - Replace payment gateway (1.4)
  - Improve financial reporting to include more historical data (1.5)
  - Develop a revenue generating plan (1.5)
  - Promote larger 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition basket contributions in groups (1.5)
  - Educate fellowship on resources that are and are not available based on current budget (1.6)
  - Learn from successful group/Intergroup fundraisers (1.9)
  - Improve the office phone system (1.9)
- Future Priorities of the BFOC
  - Document standard operating procedures (SOP) for office operations
  - Develop internal control and risk management policies
  - Complete remaining tax and corporate reports
- Future projections
  - Anticipate lower contribution and sales in coming 12 mos.
  - More conservative FY 2010 budget

Questions and comments from the delegates and responses from the presenters:

- Are we on track with budget this year?  
Yes.
- Are there fines or penalties for late filing?  
Not yet or no.
- Presentation was fantastic - addressed the issues raised in 2008.
- Is there a big inventory of 10 years of *the Journal*?  
There are a lot; you can buy all three for \$15.
- Are you promoting individual contributions?  
Yes, we are looking a new payment gateway for contributions.
- Are you recording group and Intergroup contributions?  
We need to be more specific about lone and Intergroup contributions.

- We need to have more ideas to access more volunteers. We need to educate the membership about FWS.

We are going to promote FWS. Linda has offered the FWS office to hold meetings/groups.

- If you have questions that could be answered by members or by the business committee, you can direct the email to volunteers remotely. There is probably labor that can be done remotely.
- Is there a decrease in Investment income?

We have increased spending in corporation copyright issues and translation issues. We want to get ways to service the Fellowship and to pay the salaries for the staff we need. One new employee was added this year.

- We have frustration in UK about whether the UK will be able to print its own literature. There are meetings that do not have a wide spectrum of literature due to the high shipping cost. We want to print locally. The worries are about paying for shipping, not for literature. What can we do?

The whole BOT will be happy to meet with you to address all concerns. This is one of the reasons we hired an attorney. We have agreed in principle that FWS gives a big discount.

Finding a printer to print 500 Basic Texts is the difficult.

- Paypal was a suggestion for a new payment gateway.
- Can you give us an update on the fulfillment center?

The centers are costly. We need more details on cost and we will take it under advisement.

- Volunteers can triage emails.

This has been discussed by the BOT.

- I understand that we need to create new revenue streams. We could use Amazon as a gateway, although this may be a Tradition violation.
- With a smaller budget, will we keep the 3 other staff?

This is not known.

*There was a short break.*

### **Tuesday, July 14, 2009, General Assembly, 5:00-6:00pm**

This session opened with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer. A quorum was established. The micro was Sam M., the macro was Rita H., and the back-up was Anthony P. Conference Committee reports were continued.

### **Conference Intergroup Communication Committee (CICC)**

Rita H. reported that this committee was reactivated this year with Jenny D. the chair and Chantal C. the vice chair. The BGNC and CICC formalized the Call Squad Oversight Team and organized volunteers to communicate personally, one-on-one, with over 55 Intergroup representatives world-wide.

**Conference Internet Committee (CIC)**

The website approval process is now online, phone meetings, and present technology use suggestions.

**Conference Journal Committee (CJC)**

James E. is the chair, but in his absence, Andrew H. presented the report. This year Kim B. stepped down to become a BOT member. This position is now a vacant spot. Anyone interested may contact the CJC. Journal reps are needed. The editor, Douglas D., focuses on themes and there is more artwork in each edition. Irv is helping with the artwork.

**Conference Finance Committee (CFC)**

Anthony P. indicated that the committee tabulates and forwards the financial requests of Conference committees to the BOT and is dedicated to helping to carry the message to addicts. This committee will need budget sheets at the end of the ABM as well as a new chair. The majority of funds requested for Conference committee work are approved by the BOT. There is money to support Conference committee work thru September 2009.

**Conference Literature Committee (CLC)**

Leon C. is the chair. He asked all that are interested in creating literature for the Fellowship to join the CLC. There are new projects (see the annual report).

**Members Retention Committee (MRC)**

Pam C. gave the report. She noted that the chair position has rotated. There are several ongoing projects such as: the sponsorship workbook; the task force on stories project; the questions to and interviews of long timers; and the new step chips. The survey project is detailed in the annual report.

**Prison Outreach Committee (POC)**

Garry K. gave the report. The committee is semi-active. There were letters to prisoners found in the office, so the committee researched who was still in prison and answered them. There was an email sent to all institutions. The committee updated their page on the website. The committee needs volunteers to be pen pals. The committee lost its chair during the year and has recently received the committee files. The mission is to take the message of recovery to those in the prison and jail systems.

**Conference Public Information Committee (CPIC)**

Maria L. gave the report and extended an invitation to all to join the CPIC. There is a conference call already planned, so if you have a meeting conflict, you can join the call next month. She corrected a phone contact number. The committee needs people who have experience with public outreach for centralized public information outreach. The committee also needs volunteers to create outreach literature.

**Conference Service Committee (CSC)**

Claudine L. gave the report. There are five members. They created a leadership mentorship subcommittee. Ron G. is the current chair.

**Conference Steps and Traditions Committee (CSTC)-**

Ava M. indicated that one large project of the committee is the 12 and 12 book project headed by John S. There is a Traditions study subcommittee that deals with inquiries. These are used as articles in the FWS Newsletter

*This was the end of Conference committee reports. The ABM moved to Phase I of the voting process. The role of Spiritual Reminder was explained. Phase I began after a review of the process.*

Sam M. served as the micro, Rita H. the macro, and Anthony P. as the backup. Sam A. served as timekeeper, and the vote counters were Barry B. and Leon C.

Phase I process began.

**09o01/08-08** Motion: That the Conference approve the following text [See Attachment 1] as Conference-approved literature. This text has been reviewed and approved by the Conference Literature Committee. (Glenn L., Los Angeles CA).

**Moved to Phase II.**

**09o02/08-09** Motion: The People of Color Pamphlet [see Attachment 2] is submitted for approval by the Conference at the 2009 Annual Business Meeting. The CLC approved the document, as is, at its January 10, 2009, meeting. The document has been in preparation for several years. (James J., Oakland CA; Dee G., Houston TX, POCP Writing Group).

**Moved to Phase II.**

**09o03/08-12** Motion: The Conference calls upon the Board of Trustees to approach the governing bodies of S.A.A. and S.C.A. to initiate discussion on the possibility of merging the organizations. By passage of this motion the Conference supports such a merger in concept. If this motion passes, the Board of Trustees is called upon to deliver a report to the Conference at the 2010 Annual Business Meeting detailing its actions taken in this regard over the course of the year; a summary of advantages and disadvantages of such an action; and a recommendation for next steps. (Lee W., et. al., for the Oak Park Sunday Serenity meeting).

**Moved to Phase II.**

**09n04-** Motion: The Journal Managing Editor moves that a Journal subscription card be sent with every literature order fulfillment and information packet mailed out from the F.W.S. Office and that subscription cards be reprinted from the file prepared by the Journal's Publication Team onto card stock as needed to keep them stocked. (Douglas D., Pompano Beach FL, Managing Editor, the Journal).

**Moved to Phase II.**

**09n05-** Motion: That a Conference Translation Committee be created. (Jacinthe L., Montréal, Québec, Canada, Chair, CDC Translation Subcommittee).

**Moved to Phase II.**

**09n06-** Motion: The Conference Journal Committee moves that the Journal Accountant prepare a Business Report for each issue of the Journal so that the Journal is properly accountable to the Fellowship, the Journal readership, the F.W.S. Staff, and the Board Finance and Operating Committee. The F.W.S. Office is requested to facilitate this process by providing the basic cost and volume information listed below [see Attachment 4] within a reasonable time (perhaps a week or two) after each issue of the Journal is distributed. The Journal Accountant shall provide an easy-to-use tally sheet and spreadsheet template to the F.W.S. Office so that providing the information needed to generate a meaningful report takes as little time as possible. The completed Business Report shall be disseminated to the C.J.C. membership, the F.W.S. Office, and the Board Finance and Operating Committee to aid in financial, editorial, outreach, and policy decision-making. The Business Report shall contain (a) the raw information; (b) a statement of revenues, expenses, and net financial effect; and (c) accurate outreach and distribution metrics. The Journal Managing Editor shall support the Journal Accountant in providing this service or serve as Acting Accountant should the role of the Journal Accountant not be filled. (James E., Seattle WA, Chair, CJC).

**Moved to Phase II.**

*After time for announcements, there was a break for dinner.*

**Tuesday, July 14, 2009, Getting to Know the Board of Trustees, 7:15-8:15**

Anthony P. was the micro for this session, John S. the macro, and Pam C., the backup. The Board of Trustees present for this session was: Rita H. (chair), Stephen S., Bob F., Richard C., Kim B., and Tom F. Linda H., General Manager of the F.W.S. Office, and Richard G., staff member of the F.W.S. Office, were also in attendance. The chair of the BOT reviewed the responsibilities of the BOT as defined in the CSM and the 12 Traditions. Each BOT introduced themselves and the committee on which they serve. The BOT and FWS office staff conducted a question and answer period, and here is the summary of that session:

- How many available seats on the BOT?

Stephen S. will give more information later.

- How will the empty BOT seats affect operation?

We started with six, added Chris for seven, lost two to resignation, and appointed two members, Kim and Tom, up for approval. There are nine positions, but all do not be to be filled. There was a major impact with five BOT members as they doubled up on duties.

- Is there a sobriety requirement?

3 years of self-defined sobriety

- What are the current financial contribution policy and its status?

Right now it is to leave things alone. The prudent reserve is one year of operating expenses; the rest goes to general fund. We are not soliciting funds for the prudent reserve. The BOT did review the IFD but did not pursue it. To live within our means is the motto. There is a need for anonymity with contributions. The BOT is not in agreement with the policy and we did not pursue it this year. No caps changed, nothing changed. There are no special projects. Earmarked funds have separate bookkeeping structure that was tedious and is not done.

- If you could have unlimited manpower and resources and could change one thing that would affect addicts not in recovery, what would you change?

We would need more staff to do all the things that the members would like us to do. We are working on outreach and letting people know we are here. We would like the BOT members to get out to the different Intergroups.

- The GM, Linda Hamilton, is swamped, are the BOT members doing more? What do Conference committees need to do to pick up the slack?

Yes. To enable Conference committees to take care of themselves.

- What is the difference between groups and Intergroups contributions?

We use the 60/40 pamphlet, 60% to Intergroup, and 40% to FWS. I think the pamphlet needs to change. Nowhere does it say that Intergroups need to donate to FWS. It is possible that Intergroups have no money to send to FWS. We can remind the groups to support their Intergroup. It is a major expense to Intergroups to send a delegate to ABM; some Intergroups have no money to do this.

- Are you considering non-sex and love addicts as BOT members?

We are actively seeking to develop a policy and plan. There are persons who know about us and have skill sets that we need and are not sex and love addicts. The strategy is word of mouth. A.A. looks for trustee members in the field of medicine, legal, religion, etc. We have had non-sex and love addicts serve on our BOT.

- There is a distinction between earmarked funds and projects specially sponsored by the BOT. To be promoted as monies sent to a project is a good fundraising tool.

We will take this under advisement and it is an area we will talk about. It is more of an accounting issue.

- What would be necessary to have earmarked funds?

Linda and I did an analysis about the move and we did not have a net increase, the total pot was the same. I worry about people sending their contributions to the special projects instead of the general fund.

- About complying with the IRS: Who on the BOT understands the rules and regulations of the IRS?

There are certain things that we have to do every 5 years. \$1 is not enough anymore.

- There was a lot of complaining about begging for money.

This BOT does not beg, but we do need to educate the membership about FWS and what it wants to do. We can each take responsibility to speak about this on a 1:1 basis.

- Do we have an International BOT?

We did have Rico from Brazil who was not able to serve out his term. Cristina served from Italy for 3 years.

- How about having a radio spot? TV spot?

Absolutely we would do that...we can't afford it. If someone writes it, I can work with them in getting it done.

- Do you have gratitude contributions?

There are two, May and November.

- Can we do PSAs and get a video?

We can get started anytime.

- What do you need from Delegates to help things run more smoothly?

We are the ones that are responsible for getting the work done. We need money, we need people. We need to do more education. The 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition is more than about money. We need to carry the message. Make a flyer; tell people where your group is. Get a Basic Text into your library.

- We track money donated from each group. There is a limited amount that gets donated. What other ideas does the BOT have to increase revenue?

There is more money in spreading the word, increasing number of groups, or retaining members, than increasing the amount of dollars given at any given meeting.

After “Getting to Know the BOT and the FWS Office” presentation, Stephen S. talked about BOT nominations and nominees. He reviewed the members who will need to have their appointments confirmed by the Conference and the two nominees that are up for election at this conference. He reminded the members that time will be allotted for nominations from the floor. Delegates will have the opportunity to interview the nominees and BOT members to be confirmed. It was stressed that members need to be present at the voting session. Announcements were made and this session ended.

**Wednesday, July 15, 2009, Conference Committee Meetings, 8:30-12noon**

After breakfast, there were three committee sessions for Conference committees and a break for lunch.

**Wednesday, July 15, 2009- General Assembly, 2:00- 3pm**

The meeting started with the reading of the 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, and the 12 Recommended Guidelines. The micro was John S., the macro was Pam C., and back-up was Tom F. Other roles were assigned as follows: timekeeper-Sam A., vote counters-James J. and Leon W., spiritual reminder-Ayana P. A quorum was established. Stephen S. announced the opportunity for BOT nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor. Phase I was resumed. Sam M. made sure all members received the motions submitted the previous night.

**09n07** Issue for Discussion: The South Florida Intergroup, by unanimous vote, asks that the S.L.A.A. Conference discuss increasing the number of publication channels and outreach tools used to make approved S.L.A.A. content suitable for outreach available to sex and love addicts who do not yet know that recovery is possible. (*South Florida Intergroup, c/o Douglas D., Pompano Beach FL*).

**Moved to Phase II.**

**09n08** Issue for Discussion: This 8X11 sheet written on both sides [see Attachment 6] DRAFT [Free] Institutional Flyer to be given to Professionals and Residents of Treatment Facilities, Prisons, Hospitals, Institutions, as a way to Bridge the Gap between treatment, incarceration, inpatient treatment and the suffering person’s re-entry into everyday life. All words in this CAC Draft Free Flyer are from already approved literature, except the Sub-title: “The Starving Heart, Mind, and Spirit”. (CAC Free Institutional Anorexia Flyer Subcommittee: Beth L., Montreal, Canada; Tim F., Eastern PA; Ayana P., NY).

**Moved to Phase II.**

**09n09-** Motion: Amend the By-Laws as follows: How the By-Laws Currently Read: See Attachment 7a. Proposed By-Laws Changes (Using Strike-out and Underline Format): See Attachment 7b. How the By-Laws Will Appear If the Changes Are Adopted: See Attachment 7c. (Conference By-Laws Committee).

**Moved to Phase II.**

**09o10/08n10** IFD Issue for Discussion: The Conference Literature Committee (CLC) requests input on a draft booklet with a working title of Tools To Achieve And Maintain Sobriety In S.L.A.A. [see Attachment 8]. The Tools Writing Group (TWG) and the CLC also invite writing contributions for the following tools:

“Bottom-lines”, “Accessory Behaviors”, “Top-Lines”, “Abstinence”, “Take Recovery You”, “Honesty Open-Mindedness and Willingness”, “Withdrawal”, “The Three-Second-Rule”, “Accountability Partners”, “Acceptance/Serenity Prayer”, and “Dealing With Triggers”. (Tools Writing Group, Felton CA).

**Moved to Phase II.**

**09n11** IFD Issue for Discussion: The Conference Literature Committee (CLC) requests input on a draft pamphlet with a working title of Triggering Language and Behaviors in Meetings (Triggers in Meetings as a Resource). Please see Attachment 9 for the draft text. The WCWG and the CLC also requests feedback as to the title of the document; 1) Triggering Language and Behaviors in Meetings (Triggers in Meetings as a Resource), 2) Triggers in Meetings and, 3) Triggers in Meetings as a Resource for Recovery. (West Coast Writing Group, Felton CA).

**Moved to Phase II.**

**09n12** IFD Issue for Discussion: The International Recovery Convention Subcommittee (IRCS) of the Board Public Relations Committee (BRPC) and the General Manager of F.W.S. would like to discuss the pros and cons of changing the scheduling of International Recovery Conventions (IRCs) to every five years coinciding with the Fellowship’s anniversary year [1976]. (Board Public Relations Committee and F.W.S. Office). **Moved to Phase II.**

**09n13** Motion: Switch the order of major resources 4 and 5 in the S.L.A.A. Preamble so that Resource 4 is “Spirituality” and Resource 5 is “Service.” (Bob Ford, Cedar Creek, NE).

**Moved to Phase II.**

**09n14** Motion: Change the second-to-last sentence of the S.L.A.A. Preamble from: “We find a common denominator in our obsessive/compulsive patterns which renders any personal differences of sexual or gender orientation irrelevant” to “We find a common denominator in our obsessive/compulsive patterns, honoring any personal differences of sexual orientation or gender identity.” (*Conference Diversity Committee*).

**Moved to Phase II.**

**09n15** IFD Issue for Discussion This item asks the Conference to discuss the minimal requirements for service work at the conference committee level. In other words, what does this conference recommend as the *minimum* suggested sobriety requirements for conference committee work? If we are to be held accountable for our actions, then we need to observe Tradition 9 of “[being] directly responsible to those they serve,” which leads us to act in the spirit of Step 12 “...and to practice these principles in all areas of our lives.” (*Leon C., Richardson, TX; Sam A., Felton, CA*).

**Moved to Phase II.**

**09n16** Motion: The Fellowship shall fund the expenses of the CCC Chair to the ABC/M. (*Conference Committee Chairs*).

**Moved to Phase II.**

The General Assembly began with a brief explanation of Phase II (votes are reported with number for – number against – number abstaining).

**09o01/08-08** Motion: That the Conference approve the following text [See Attachment 1] as ‘Conference-approved literature.’ This text has been reviewed and approved by the Conference Literature Committee. (Glenn L., Los Angeles CA)

Committees reported their feedback:

BRS: This item was accepted without change onto the BMIS by a vote of 5-0-0.

CLC: The CLC endorses Conference approval of this document.

CSTC: Consider Traditions 5, 12.

CMRC: Supports literature as it helps retention of members.

Three pros and cons were heard:

- It is consistent with materials that will benefit others and we need to get it out to the Fellowship
- I like the ideas and the pamphlet, although it does not mention sponsorship as a way of dealing with an obsession or how SLAA can help one get sober.
- If we approve the motion, then it is approved exactly the way it is and there is no room for edits. *The CLC stated this is correct.*
- There is a concern that our literature is lacking and would like to adopt the pamphlet.
- I like the pamphlet, but I have issues with the wording, e.g., the use of the word “they,” the word “stop” does not indicate a spiritual acceptance of HP
- My Intergroup would like to adopt.
- There are differences between obsession singular vs. obsession plural
- If this document is not passed, it can be changed and come back next year.
- There was positive feedback from my area on this motion; there is a strong need and urgency to have literature.
- I am in favor of the concept, I have issues of verb tense and words placed in quotes are distractive for the wording.
- There was wide support in my area for this pamphlet.
- How long will it be before this item comes around if voted down? There was clarification from the CCC and CLC.
- Our Intergroup supported this.
- What conditions are imposed on this piece of literature if it does not pass? It is considered non-conference approved literature. A group can choose by group conscience to copy the literature. Non-conference approved literature needs to be identified as such.
- This was an IFD last year and is now a motion. Time for edits was during the year. We need to vote on it.

1<sup>st</sup> vote: 25-14-02

Minority opinion was heard:

- If we accept this, we approve it the way it is. It needs to be more polished.
- I heard all the support for the pamphlet, but I have heard the input that could have made it better. I wished we received the input during this year.
- It says the text is approved, not the pamphlet as approved.
- I would like to see more of a recovery aspect. I do not believe to approve literature for the sake of passing literature.
- The way we carry the message is to share our truth. The pamphlet does not do anything for the 12 Step program of recovery.
- What is the action for the BOT that to be binding? Votes that are binding on the BOT were explained.

2<sup>nd</sup> vote: 19-22-00

Minority opinion was heard:

- This will help the addict still suffering. The message and reminders in the pamphlet are beneficial.
- This pamphlet was accepted with the language and grammar it which it is currently written.
- There is a process of the literature committee to give time to edit the form. It was then approved by the CLC as written.
- When I read the document, I saw a couple of errors. I saw errors in grammar but not in content. We are in the position to make a business decision, it is to pass literature. We do not have to be perfectionistic.
- There was a unanimous decision about the content as profound.
- It is one of the most requested pieces of literature at my meetings. The message is superbly passed.
- Approving the document may have a cost of typos; the cost of not approving it is to wait on a good pamphlet for a year.
- Sponsorship is mentioned in the pamphlet.

3<sup>rd</sup> vote: 23-16-02

Motion has passed but not as a 2/3 majority and therefore not binding on the BOT.

There was a challenge to group conscience. Vote taken: 33-7. The conference believed the vote on this motion was group conscience.

*There was a break for 10 minutes.*

**Wednesday, July 15, 2009- General Assembly, 3:00- 4:00pm**

The micro for this session was Pam C., the macro was Tom F., and the backup was Sam M. The timekeeper was John S. the spiritual reminder, Mike J., and vote counters were Rob P. and Serena K. The quorum was established. Phase II continued.

**09o02/08-09** Motion: The People of Color Pamphlet [see Attachment 2] is submitted for approval by the Conference at the 2009 Annual Business Meeting. The CLC approved the document, as is, at its January 10, 2009, meeting. The document has been in preparation for several years. (James J., Oakland CA; Dee G., Houston TX, POCP Writing Group)

The committee reports were heard:

BRS: This item was accepted without change onto the BMIS by a vote of 5-0-0.

CLC: The CLC endorses Conference approval of this document.

Three pros and cons were heard:

- Racism is narrowly defined to Caucasians in this pamphlet. We all come to the Fellowship feeling different.
- This will help strengthen our fellows and to reach out to those that feel different than others.
- I don't like to have special interest meetings. It does not help with unity. This brings in outside controversy issues.
- I know of a person who was appreciative that the Conference addressed this issue and felt loved and accepted by others.
- I appreciate the desire to reach out, but white is a color. People of color can be racist; racism is not just assigned to Caucasians.
- As a diversity trainer, it used to be that to heal was to figure out what we all have common, now the premise is to recognize the differences and embrace the differences.

1<sup>st</sup> vote: 18-21-02

Minority opinion was heard.

- Last year I had different opinions, but I see a better product due to the revisions and I think it will speak to those who need it.
- Literature is an iterative process. I don't think it is possible to create a perfect product and I think the CLC needs to address the process.
- It is important to me that minorities be accepted in this Fellowship and I think the pamphlet will help.
- I gave this pamphlet to people of color for review and they thought it nailed it.
- The need for the pamphlet exists because a member who wrote it says it exists and created a solution. At our core, we share the same issues. The POC perceive these issues through different filters

- It was part of SF/EB group who wrote it. I have felt as a minority and think this pamphlet will be supportive venue.
- We all want to be honored and feel loved, this pamphlet supports that.
- There are other marginalized groups, not just POC, which liked this pamphlet as it addressed their issues, too.
- We took all comments seriously, I am confused as to what are the areas are in question.

2nd vote: 19-21-01

Motion does not pass.

**09o03/08-12** Motion: The Conference calls upon the Board of Trustees to approach the governing bodies of S.A.A. and S.C.A. to initiate discussion on the possibility of merging the organizations. By passage of this motion the Conference supports such a merger in concept. If this motion passes, the Board of Trustees is called upon to deliver a report to the Conference at the 2010 Annual Business Meeting detailing its actions taken in this regard over the course of the year; a summary of advantages and disadvantages of such an action; and a recommendation for next steps. (Lee W., et. al., for the Oak Park Sunday Serenity meeting)

Committee reports were heard:

BRS: This item was revised by the owner and accepted onto the BMIS by a vote of 5-0-0.

BOT: The BOT has contacted the SAA and SCA and will present a written preliminary report to help the Conference decide how to proceed with this motion. This comment approved by the BOT 6-0-0.

CAC: The CAC welcomes the idea of being informed regarding the advantages/ disadvantages of a possible merger via a written report. The differences amongst these fellowships include the use of mainstream sexual recovery literature within local meetings. However this motion specifies that actions towards a merger must follow the motion's approval. Because this motion was not separated into 2 parts, with the report of advantages/ disadvantages being created and distributed so that the fellowship could first be informed/ educated before being bound to initiate a merger or take further action, the CAC does not support this motion.

CSTC: The S.L.A.A. Book Project Subcommittee wants to point out that parties will need to keep in mind financial commitments from this project which might exist at the time of a merger if a merger were to happen.

Three pros and cons were heard:

- SAA is doing much better than we are. They are effective at increasing meetings, getting more contributions, and have increase prudent reserve fund.
- Other "S" groups were approached and did not want to merge. At no time have other "S" fellowships been approached for merge. They are open to discussion, but not merge. This would be a moot point if other groups do not want to merge.

- There is cooperation in our area between 12 -Step fellowships, putting the message to the newcomer first.
- I don't think this should be on the BMIS. The BOT has researched this and I wish to make a motion to withdraw this from our agenda and motion was seconded.

That since the person who originated is not here and we have the option of taking it off the BMIS. The motion is: "To withdraw the motion 09n03/08-12 from the BMIS." Vote taken: 20-13-05. The conference was questioning as to the proceedings as there is no specific process for withdrawal of a motion. After a small conference, a motion was made as to whether the vote to withdraw met group conscience: Do you think the decision to withdraw the motion is group conscience or not group conscience? A vote was taken: 16-20. The process continued with hearing pros and cons.

- What can do we do to carry the message and if united, we can be more effective.
- There are too many differences between the fellowships to combine. It would water down the program.

1<sup>st</sup> vote: 07-34-00

Minority opinion was heard:

- I trust the group conscience, but I don't believe we would be merging into another "S" fellowships. "S" fellowships have more in common than they think.
- We would be expanding and not giving up our identity, one common is the concept of self-defined sobriety, but the language is different.
- Other "S" fellowships are useful; the concern is losing the anorexia piece.

2<sup>nd</sup> vote: 06-35-00

The motion does not pass.

*Announcements were made and the session ended. After dinner, there was a speaker meeting, a raffle, and free time for the evening.*

#### **Thursday, July 16, 2009 General Assembly- 8:30- 9:30am**

The General Assembly began with the Serenity Prayer recited in French, German, and English. The Conference made the decision to eliminate the readings of the 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, and 12 Recommended Guidelines in favor of more time to do business. The roles assigned for this session are: Richard C. as micro, Ava M. as macro, Stephen S. as backup, Claudine L. and Mark C. as timekeepers, Patrick W. and Martin K. as vote counters, and Lara F. as spiritual reminder. A quorum was established. Phase II continued.

**09n04** Motion: The Journal Managing Editor moves that a Journal subscription card be sent with every literature order fulfillment and information packet mailed out from the F.W.S. Office and that

subscription cards be reprinted from the file prepared by the Journal's Publication Team onto card stock as needed to keep them stocked. (Douglas D., Pompano Beach FL, Managing Editor, the Journal)

Committee reports were heard.

BRS: This item was accepted without change onto the BMIS by a vote of 5-0-0.

CSTC: Consider Traditions 1, 5, 12

CMRC: An available way to retain members.

FWS Office: This is current practice.

BFOC/BOT: Passage of the motion would set a negative precedent that conference committees could dictate the execution of activities of the FWS Staff.

Pros and cons were heard:

- This is a necessary marketing tool.
- This is a literature process and items for literature should be supported.
- This card currently goes out in literature orders.

1<sup>st</sup> vote: 9-26-4

There was a call for minority opinion. There was no minority opinion. The motion was not passed.

**09n05** Motion: That a Conference Translation Committee be created. (Jacinthe L., Montréal, Québec, Canada, Chair, CDC Translation Subcommittee)

Committee reports were heard:

BRS: This item was accepted without change onto the BMIS by a vote of 5-0-0.

CAC: The CAC fully supports this motion as we would be able to more quickly arrange translation of upcoming Anorexia literature. Currently there are 3 separate drafts in progress.

CICC: The CICC was pleased to see this motion to start a Conference Translation Committee. The CICC works with CSOT and over 60 Intergroups world-wide many in different languages, the focus and work of this committee is welcomed.

CLC: The 2008-2009 CLC supports this motion with a vote of 5-0-0.

CSTC: Consider Traditions 1, 5, 9

CDC: It is important to have a separate committee to coordinate and facilitate the work of members who are international. Translation is very specific work. This work could begin at the CDC level and then given to Intergroups, such as the one in German Speaking countries. This would free the CLC to do its work and this committee to work on Translation of books, pamphlets and web pages. Languages requested: French, Spanish, Danish, Russian, Chinese and Swedish.

CMRC: Vital for the retention of members.

CCC: Is not taking a position, but would add one committee that will require more resources of money and time.

Pros and cons were heard:

- Designated CDC member, Beth L., spoke to this motion. This was an IFD last year requesting funds to translate the Basic Text into French for \$11,000. What are the means of educating the Fellowship as to the need of translating into other languages? We are grateful to hear from other language speaking persons that wish to hear words of recovery in their own language.
- Not opposed to motion, but no motion is needed to form a committee. There is a way to form a committee and request funds as confirmed committees of the Conference.
- We need this committee and this is a message to the world. Translation is much needed.
- This should not become a committee. This would be an extremely active committee and needs another BOT liaison. There is a task force on the BOT to address financial actions.
- Tradition 5 is important. Tradition 7 can support this.
- Creating a new committee concerns me. I think this should be part of the BOT and the FWS office.

*There was a request for more time for pros and cons, especially with the importance of the issues. Moved to 90 seconds for comments for this session. There were no other pros and cons but there was conversation about committee formation and the voting options. However, the impact of the outcome of the vote is unknown.*

1<sup>st</sup> vote: 29-8-5

Minority opinion was heard.

- We don't need a motion to create a motion. If it were to fail, there is the opportunity for members of the Conference to come together here and be confirmed on Friday with other conference committees
- I am excited about translation. This is a legal and financial issue and needs to be on the BOT for approval. It is in the wrong place. I would like to see the members work together with the BOT.
- There is a financial and legal process. A Conference committee will not be helped unless the work on the BFOC is complete. This will put strain on the BOT.

2<sup>nd</sup> vote: 25-12-4

This motion has passed, but not by a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority, therefore not binding on the BOT.

*There was a short break.*

There was a schedule change that increased business time by one additional hour. There was no change to the facilitation group. The roles remain unchanged. Phase II continued

**09n06.** Motion: The Conference Journal Committee moves that the Journal Accountant prepare a Business Report for each issue of the Journal so that the Journal is properly accountable to the Fellowship, the Journal readership, the F.W.S. Staff, and the Board Finance and Operating Committee.

The F.W.S. Office is requested to facilitate this process by providing the basic cost and volume information listed below [see Attachment 4] within a reasonable time (perhaps a week or two) after each issue of the Journal is distributed. The Journal Accountant shall provide an easy-to-use tally sheet and spreadsheet template to the F.W.S. Office so that providing the information needed to generate a meaningful report takes as little time as possible. The completed Business Report shall be disseminated to the C.J.C. membership, the F.W.S. Office, and the Board Finance and Operating Committee to aid in financial, editorial, outreach, and policy decision-making. The Business Report shall contain (a) the raw information; (b) a statement of revenues, expenses, and net financial effect; and (c) accurate outreach and distribution metrics. The Journal Managing Editor shall support the Journal Accountant in providing this service or serve as Acting Accountant should the role of the Journal Accountant not be filled. (James E., Seattle WA, Chair, CJC).

**This motion was withdrawn from the BMIS by the originator.**

**09n07** Issue for Discussion: The South Florida Intergroup, by unanimous vote, asks that the S.L.A.A. Conference discuss increasing the number of publication channels and outreach tools used to make approved S.L.A.A. content suitable for outreach available to sex and love addicts who do not yet know that recovery is possible. (South Florida Intergroup, c/o Douglas D., Pompano Beach FL)

Committee reports were heard:

BRS: This item was accepted without change onto the BMIS by a vote of 3-0-2.

CAC: The CAC agrees that the culture of secrecy is indicative of the shame around compulsive disorders and not the wisdom of recovery. Of the avenues mentioned for educating the public regarding S.L.A.A., we support the use of all of the printed publication channels, radio and recovery related web sites. The CAC would encourage "sexual anorexia", "social anorexia", —emotional anorexia", "sexual anorectic", "social anorectic", and "emotional anorectic" to be included with the Search Terms. If the CPIC was a fully active committee they would ideally carry out some of these initiatives, thus lessening the obligation placed on the FWS office.

CICC: The CICC supports efforts to carry the message and this IFD suggests the involvement of the CICC. While the CICC encourages discussion of this item, it is too early to determine how and if the CICC may be helpful at this time.

CSTC: 12 & 12 Book Project will be conference approved literature and an important source of revenue. It is important for the fellowship to find ways of spreading the message while at the same time protecting the copyright and trademark of S.L.A.A.

CSTC: Consider Traditions 3, 5, 12

CPIC: Supports increasing the number of publication channels and outreach tools to let addicts know that recovery is possible.

Delegate comments are summarized as follows: (10 minutes of 1 minute shares)

- I don't know if there is an action item that can be defined or if one can come out of it. Are we willing to give away out literature on the web?

- This should be ongoing. We need to focus on what we have common, if we have so many divisions then we have a culture of fragmentation. Our meetings should be supporting our identification as Sex and Love addicts.
- A caution if we can afford to change how we sell and distribute the text.
- There is an opportunity to clarify “attraction” as word of mouth and “promotion” means advertising. Anonymity does not mean silence.
- There are a lot of people that were acting out in the time we spent in an earlier meeting. We are fortunate to be in recovery. Should we continue to think of expansion? We need to find ways of outreach and increase revenues at the same time.
- Public outreach can happen in the form of postcards to people from people who work with sex and love, glad for the dialogue. Have to get the message out frequently and ongoing.
- Our CPIC session was exciting. We want to centralize that wisdom and how we go about public outreach. Our experience, strength, and hope will work and we need to find and share with each other.
- We need to craft the message. There are not translations. Need to be current with communication means.
- The message is not being carried and some don’t know they are suffering. Distribute files. Use guidelines for PI dealing with the public.
- There are tools of outreach: letter to clergy, phone line 211 is another recovery resource.
- Agreed that we need to be more proactive in our Intergroup. There is an epidemic on the internet with sexual acting out and would like that addressed. What can we do to get out on the internet and let people know there is help?
- How do we measure our success in carrying our message to other sex and love addicts?

**09n08** Issue for Discussion: This 8X11 sheet written on both sides [see Attachment 6] DRAFT [Free] Institutional Flyer to be given to Professionals and Residents of Treatment Facilities, Prisons, Hospitals, Institutions, as a way to Bridge the Gap between treatment, incarceration, inpatient treatment and the suffering person’s re-entry into everyday life. All words in this CAC Draft Free Flyer are from already approved literature, except the Sub-title: “The Starving Heart, Mind, and Spirit”. (CAC Free Institutional Anorexia Flyer Subcommittee: Beth L., Montreal, Canada; Tim F., Eastern PA; Ayana P., NY)

Committee reports were heard:

BRS: This item was accepted without change onto the BMIS by a vote of 5-0-0.

CAC: The CAC completely supports this IFD. This flyer enables S.L.A.A. to better carry the message to the anorectic that still suffers. Feedback on this draft is requested by October 15, 2009.

CLC: The 2008-2009 CLC encourages the CAC to submit the final draft of this document to the CLC so that the CLC can guide this document through the Conference Literature Approval Process defined in the CSM.

CSTC: Consider Traditions 5 and 11.

CPIC: Fully approved.

Delegate comments are summarized as follows:

- “Bridging the gap” is borrowed from AA, bridging the gap between institutions to everyday life. This is the intent of this flyer.
- The info is important. However, it is divisive and redundant, as there is already a literature piece for the professionals. There is anorexia piece to be included.
- It is nice to have a new one. It is valuable in other settings, not just prison.
- There was confusion about how it will be used and in combination with other pamphlets we already have.
- It is intended to be free. Can be distributed to professional. It should be given to more people including those of us out there in the community.
- This may appear to create a division. Professionals do not always read all their mail. We might incorporate this into other pamphlets.
- Confused because there is already an anorexia pamphlet. I suggest a change the title for less confusion.
- I like the anorexia pamphlet and there is a need for more literature for professionals. Intergroups need to make their own choices as to what may be effective. Different areas may have different tools.
- Concerned as it is narrow in focus and may be ineffective. The Steps do not appear on the pamphlet. Try to come with a pamphlet that might be more inclusive.
- This was brought here to hear feedback. Intent was for use for anyone exiting an institutional facility. Could be used for group within the institution or for their staff.
- Divisiveness – most people did not know what anorexia was, but would like to have anorexia in the mainstream literature. The pamphlet is a great idea, but needs not to be separate.
- We have to make a decision about the anorexia part of Sex and Love, or is it separate?
- Does not speak about sexual behaviors as a major form of acting out. Important to identify themselves as a member of this fellowship.

**09n09** Motion: Amend the By-Laws as follows: How the By-Laws Currently Read: See Attachment 7a. Proposed By-Laws Changes (Using Strike-out and Underline Format): See Attachment 7b. How the By-Laws Will Appear If the Changes Are Adopted: See Attachment 7c. (Conference By-Laws Committee)

Committee reports were heard:

BRS: This item was accepted without change onto the BMIS by a vote of 4-1-0.

BOT: The BGNC (motion Jan 9, 09 passed 3-0-0) and BOT (motion Jan 21, 09 passed 5-0-0) have unanimously approved these By-Laws as amended and agreed to add this comment to the BMIS by a vote of 6-0-0.

CBC: The Conference By-Laws Committee would like to address questions which have arisen with respect to two of the proposed —technical changesll in the CBC motion for this year’s Annual Business Meeting. One change clarifies what the Fellowship considers to be an

Intergroup (Article IV, Section 1). The CBC believes the original text is contradictory as written, first saying that two or more groups are necessary to form an Intergroup, then stating that one group may form an Intergroup. The proposed change simply clarifies that passage to conform with the actual practice of the Fellowship, which is to view these as alternatives. The clarification imposes no obligations on any Intergroup, whether it currently exists or is in formation, and will not exclude any Intergroup which wishes to participate with F.W.S. The second proposed change clarifies what constitutes a quorum of the Board of Trustees (Article VI, Section 8). The current language does not define —full Board. As a consequence, one reading of the current language would require a quorum to consist of more Trustees than are actually serving on the BOT at a given time. The other interpretation would follow the actual practice of the Fellowship, which is to read —full Board to mean the number of currently elected or appointed Trustees. We do not wish to mischaracterize the proposed changes if anyone considers them to be more than technical in nature. Regardless of their characterization, the CBC is asking the Conference to accept these changes as clarifications to reconcile the By-Laws with the actual practice of the Fellowship.

CSTC: Consider Tradition 9.

Three pros and cons were heard:

- This is an effort to bring the By-laws up to date
- Pg. 58 and the intention is indeed technical (a quorum reading.) Does this motion change our obligation? What was read was not the statement; the underlined portion is the addition.
- The next paragraph that was omitted is duplicated in another section. Does not change the effectiveness of the bylaws.
- Pg. 72. Commonwealth of MA, when will that be changed if incorporated? There is no discussion in changing the charter if in MA or TX.

1<sup>st</sup> vote: 41-0-0

The motion passes unanimously.

**09o10/08n10** Issue for Discussion: The Conference Literature Committee (CLC) requests input on a draft booklet with a working title of Tools To Achieve And Maintain Sobriety In S.L.A.A. [see Attachment 8]. The Tools Writing Group (TWG) and the CLC also invite writing contributions for the following tools: “Bottom-lines”, “Accessory Behaviors”, “Top-Lines”, “Abstinence”, “Take Recovery With You”, “Honesty Open-Mindedness and Willingness”, “Withdrawal”, “The Three-Second-Rule”, “Accountability Partners”, “Acceptance/Serenity Prayer”, and “Dealing with Triggers”. (Tools Writing Group, Felton CA)

Committee reports were heard:

BRS: This item was accepted without change onto the BMIS by a vote of 5-0-0.

CSTC: Consider Traditions 2, 3, 4, 5, 9.

CLC: Feedback requested by October 9, 2009.

CMRC: Support literature which supports retention of members.

Delegate comments are summarized as follows:

- It is not perfect, that is why it is an IFD. We welcome any ideas and any edits before the cut off period.
- We invite you and your area meeting to give input and feedback, include any tools you may use. Submissions are needed by October 2, 2009; we would like to submit a motion next year.
- Committee formed as to H.O.W history. H.O.W. is adhering to our guidelines. We want to write the H.O.W. portion.
- Consideration need to be given to the order in which the tools are listed, especially HP.
- Tools need to be listed in another order.
- Comments are overwhelmingly positive. A member in NYC wants to write the 3-second rule. Might want to see auxiliary support tools.
- The order was discussed at length, so as to not categorize their importance, they are listed alphabetically, wanted to address 12 tools.
- Issues are remaining and the writing team is aware of it. We do not want to rush the pamphlet through the process, but want to take the time to refine the pamphlet. We want to keep things on the floor in order for a motion and to keep it in the sequence.
- "Tools" are something I actually work. Is it something I work or what I receive?
- We saw moving the literature forward. Because the minutes were not out in time, the process draft form was not given to as many people as possible.
- A book like this can only help me in staying sober. I encourage writing team to continue.

**09n11** Issue for Discussion: The Conference Literature Committee (CLC) requests input on a draft pamphlet with a working title of Triggering Language and Behaviors in Meetings (Triggers in Meetings as a Resource). Please see Attachment 9 for the draft text. The WCWG and the CLC also requests feedback as to the title of the document; 1) Triggering Language and Behaviors in Meetings (Triggers in Meetings as a Resource), 2) Triggers in Meetings and, 3) Triggers in Meetings as a Resource for Recovery. (West Coast Writing Group, Felton CA)

Committee reports were heard:

BRS: This item was accepted without change onto the BMIS by a vote of 5-0-0.

CLC: Read attachment 9 on pg. 88

CSTC: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, and 12 and that a copy of 12 Traditions to be included in the pamphlet.

Delegate comments are summarized as follows:

- This document went through many changes. We once thought that triggers are things that happen to you, now it has solutions to triggers. We welcome input by October 2.

- Did not have the chance to look at the actual text, but the sentiment of triggering should be defined in each group? Resources are very useful. Not required.
- Helpful, what triggers me changes, and is all about me.
- Triggering happens everywhere, why limit to triggering to just at meetings.
- Appreciate the intent to create safety in the group. It is easy to turn triggers as someone else's behaviors. I need to focus on my behavior or how do I protect myself from the triggers. Triggers are full of individual differences.
- Happy to see this piece of literature, it is a social problem.
- Pg. 90 is triggering to me. It is sexist to talk about the attire of women. I would like to see a more generic description.
- This is a great start. And there are triggers everywhere.
- Suggest that this conversation be in a group meeting. CSM pgs. 70-71 addresses this.
- High praise for the pamphlets and triggers being labeled, it asked the reader to examine their part in being triggering.

**09n12** Issue for Discussion: The International Recovery Convention Subcommittee (IRCS) of the Board Public Relations Committee (BRPC) and the General Manager of F.W.S. would like to discuss the pros and cons of changing the scheduling of International Recovery Conventions (IRCs) to every five years coinciding with the Fellowship's anniversary year [1976]. (Board Public Relations Committee and F.W.S. Office)

*\* Originator of the motion was part of the facilitation team and was replaced by another member for this IFD.*

Committee reports were heard:

BRS: This item was accepted without change onto the BMIS by a vote of 5-0-0.  
CSTC: 1, 2, 5, and 9.

Delegate comments are summarized as follows:

- The IRC is a big event. We were not able to get a bid for an IRC this year. It is hard to get ABM bids. The IRC should take on a larger event with more energy. AA and AI-Anon do this. We want your feedback.
- How do we measure the success of these activities? Although small, I benefit. Workshop and convention attendance culture lacking. Regional conferences are quarterly and attended well by other regions, such as workshops in VT.
- The intent is correct. FWS should not be required to contribute to the IRC. I have been a part of other activities that have been largely attended. Encourage you to go to an annual schedule of persons that will do these events.
- IRC takes time and energy of LPC and FWS to ensure the event does not take on too much of a local flavor but to reflect a common focus. I hope that this does not become a motion.

- I would like to see an IRC every five years. I have been on local activities and we run into the same problems having enough people to fill the roles.
- Important to have convention on anniversary dates. I don't think we measure success by attendance. Nor do I think there should be a set time. All but one event has been profitable for FWS. We should hold them when we have a willing enthusiastic group to hold them.
- The rewards outweigh the burden. There were few burdens on the FWS at a recent event.
- Sometimes it helps to scope out the scene of the event well in advance.
- Half locals and half delegates. Difficult. Every 5 years of marketing that can be better than what it already is.
- Cutting back on services is indicative of a waning of support or people not willing to do service, we need to be going to more of an abundant place. We are talking about lessening service to those who need it.
- I don't think we need a codified time, create culture of attendance and excitement, and marketing increases, if we reflect on the amount of time, money, and energy we spent on addiction and I think the same amount of time can be spent organizing an IRC.

*There was a break for lunch.*

**Thursday, July 16, 2009 General Assembly, 1:00-2:00pm**

Stephen S. served as micro, Ayana P. as macro, and Garry K. as back-up. Other roles remained the same from the morning session. Phase II continued.

**09n13** Motion: Switch the order of major resources 4 and 5 in the S.L.A.A. Preamble so that Resource 4 is "Spirituality and Resource 5 is "Service." (Bob Ford, Cedar Creek, NE)

Committee reports were heard:

BRS: This motion was accepted on the BMIS without change by 5-0-0.

Three pros and cons were heard.

- I think that the order is wrong. There is a need to have spirituality before service.
- The last one is the one that stands out to me. It will cost the Fellowship too much money to do.
- No tinkering with the Basic Text. Change is the message, it does reinforce the 12 Steps in the order they are in. It strengthens the message.
- The numerical order suggested does not make sense. The suggested order with the reasoning of the originator needs to start with spirituality as the first one.
- Never thought of the resources as needing to be in order they are written. Steps are also important. I needed to start to work the Steps before I recognized the need for a HP. How do we determine which is most important?

1<sup>st</sup> vote: 3-33-4

There was a call for minority opinion. There was no minority opinion. This motion does not pass.

**09n14** Motion: Change the second-to-last sentence of the S.L.A.A. Preamble from: “We find a common denominator in our obsessive/compulsive patterns which renders any personal differences of sexual or gender orientations irrelevant” to “We find a common denominator in our obsessive/compulsive patterns, honoring any personal differences of sexual orientation or gender identity.” (*Conference Diversity Committee*)

Committee reports were heard:

BRS: This motion was accepted on the BMIS without change by 5-0-0.

3 pros and cons were heard:

- The suggestion is meant to be more inclusive and inoffensive although there will be differences in translation to other languages.
- This text helped me to feel more welcomed.
- There is no such thing as gender orientation. There is gender identity. We would be publishing an error. We correct this in Dallas.
- If it works, don't change it. Refer to Big Book of A.A.
- This has a negative tone for newcomers and aura of lack of compassion. All are welcome especially where there is no protection of LBGT in housing, job market, and health care. Meetings need to be welcoming,
- We need to look at commonalities, this encourages divisiveness, and skin color, etc. have no relevancy when I think that way.

1<sup>st</sup> vote: 15-17-05

Minority opinion was heard:

- We have a reputation as a straight Intergroup...not a very good job of inclusivity. That's why we support the change.
- I favor mixed gender meetings. Mixed in terms of gender and sexuality. I think the change is good for the newcomer. I also think it is a typo.
- This has been brought up before; the term “irrelevant” is offensive and can be taken personally. People might think they are irrelevant. There is no such thing as gender orientation.
- I haven't thought about the current Preamble, but I do think the change in the words has to occur for others to feel included.
- I appeal to the perfectionists, this is a typo. This can be corrected. Or to state this in a more positive way.
- This change does not change the message of our Fellowship. Language and words are important to people, we come to terms as people that are healing and extending a hand of help is to use proactive language.
- Language is offensive and could I do something to change it. For those that are a victim of hate crimes, the use of words is powerful...this is a positive change.
- Goes to power and control. It is a problem when our members are getting hurt. I would rather see unity in the context of different experiences.

2<sup>nd</sup> vote: 22-14-04

Minority opinion was heard:

- I embrace a friendly language. I have not heard the obsessive/compulsive patterns but there is a need to focus on other words.
- This adds an outside issue. It is not a qualification for membership. By placing this in the Preamble, it is honoring another qualification for the program.
- Weakens the openness of the original sentence. The meaning and focus of the sentence has changed. They like the word irrelevant, it tell straights that gayness is not excluded from the Fellowship.
- I do think this is an issue of semantics. Listen to the commonalities. This says that the differences between us are not relevant.
- All are accepted. The gays in my area thought the new wording was offensive.
- I felt our language is inclusive. There is a definition of sexual orientation.
- I would like to make a friendly amendment: "honoring" to "accepting."

The new motion is: "We find a common denominator in our obsessive/compulsive patterns, honoring accepting any personal differences of sexual orientation or gender identity." (*Conference Diversity Committee*)

*Before we began with the pros and cons, the CDC tabled this motion.*

*The schedule was adjusted for time for announcements, including important information about the BOT elections.*

*The following IFD and motion were not addressed as time ran out.*

**09n15** IFD: This item asks the Conference to discuss the minimal requirements for service work at the conference committee level. In other words, what does this conference recommend as the *minimum* suggested sobriety requirements for conference committee work? If we are to be held accountable for our actions, then we need to observe Tradition 9 of "[being] directly responsible to those they serve," which leads us to act in the spirit of Step 12 "...and to practice these principles in all areas of our lives." (*Leon C., Richardson, TX; Sam A., Felton, CA*)

**This IFD was NOT ADDRESSED.** (Reviewers note: This will automatically be added to the 2009-10 BMIS.)

**09n16** Motion: The Fellowship shall fund the expenses of the CCC Chair to the ABC/M. (*Conference Committee Chairs*)

**This Motion was NOT ADDRESSED.** (Reviewers note: This will automatically be added to the 2009-10 BMIS).

#### **Thursday, July 16, 2009, 2:15-6:00**

After the business session, the Conference held three sessions of conference committee meetings, before having dinner.

#### **Thursday, July 16, 2009 General Assembly, 7:15-8:30pm**

Roles for this session were Ayana P. as micro, Garry K. as macro, and Donna O. as back-up. Service recognitions were held. BOT nominees spoke about the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition and delegates had the opportunity to pose questions to each nominee.

After the General Assembly, the live auction was held.

**Friday, July 17, 2009 General Assembly, BOT Elections 8:30- 10:00am**

Roles for this session were: Garry K. as micro, Donna O. as macro, and John S. as backup. Barry B. served as the timekeeper and Douglas D. as the spiritual reminder. The session opened with the Serenity Prayer, reading of the 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, and the 12 Recommended Guidelines. Instructions were given as to the BOT elections. A quorum was established with 42 present. BOT elections were held.

Nominees for the 3-year term ending 2012 were Rob K. and Leon C. Confirmations of BOT appointments for terms ending 2010 were Chris D. and 2011 was Kim B. and Tom F.

While the votes were being counted, the outgoing CCC chair gave instructions and information for all organization and communication tools and resources for conference committees during the year. Announcements were made. After the vote counting, the delegates heard there was a voting irregularity and this was described by the BGNC ABM Nominating Committee Chair, Stephen S. He with, the BOT chair, and the CCC chair conferred only about the process questions. There was a vote of group conscience by the Conference as to whether the Conference agreed with the decision of the BGNC ABM Nominating Committee Chair, BOT chair, and CCC chair to a simple majority vote. "If the Conference agrees that the election results procedure is valid and it is the will of the Conference." It was seconded.

The two vote counters were Roland O. and David B.

Group conscience vote: 37-4

The result of the BOT election was:

**Kim B., Chris D., and Tom F. were confirmed.**

**Leon C. was newly elected to a three year term to the BOT.**

The following is the list of BOT members at the end of this ABM:

Chris D., San Diego, CA (2009-10)  
Bob F., Omaha, NE (2007-10)  
Rita H., Montreal, Quebec, Canada (2008-10)

Richard C., Boston, MA (2008-11)  
Kim B., Boston, MA (2009 -11)  
Tom F., Tampa, FL (2009-11)

Leon C., TX (2009-12)  
Open (2012)  
Open (2012)

There was an adjustment to the schedule due to the lengthy voting process. The General Assembly ended with the Serenity Prayer to be followed by three Conference committee sessions and lunch.

**Friday, July 17, 2009 General Assembly, 2:45pm, Final Reports**

This session opened with the Serenity Prayer. The micro was Gabriel G., the new CCC chair, the macro was Rita H., the BOT chair, and the back-up was Kim B. The timekeeper was Mark C. and Lara F. was the spiritual reminder. These are the final Conference committee Reports in summary:

**Conference Anorexia Committee (CAC)**

Chair: Ayana P.  
Board Liaison: Richard C.  
Meeting Time: 2nd Saturday 3pm ET  
Funds Requested: \$940

**Conference By-Laws Committee (CBC)**

Chair: John S.  
Board Liaison: Kim B.  
Meeting Time: October 25<sup>th</sup> 9am ET  
Funds Requested:

**Conference Charter Committee (CCC)**

Chair: Gabriel G.  
Vice Chair: Andrew H.  
BOT Liaison: Kim B.  
First Meeting: August 2<sup>nd</sup> 9am PT  
Total Budget Request: \$500

**Conference Diversity Committee**

Chair: Lark A.  
Board Liaison: Richard C.  
First Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday 8amPT  
Budget: \$350

**Conference Finance Committee**

Chair: Anthony P.

Vice Chair: Maria L.  
BOT Liaison: Tom F.  
First Meeting: 8/10/09  
Total Budget Request: \$200

**Conference Healthy Relationships Committee**

Chair: Ayana P.  
BOT Liaison: Richard C.  
First Meeting: August 23<sup>rd</sup> 12:30pm ET  
Total Budget Request: \$1000

**Conference Journal Committee**

Chair: James E.  
BOT Liaison: Rita H.  
First Meeting:  
Total Budget Request: \$2160

**Conference Inter-Fellowship Committee**

Chair: Mike J.  
Vice Chair: Marc S.  
BOT Liaison: Rita H.  
First Meeting: August 11<sup>th</sup> 8:30pm ET  
Total Budget Request:

**Conference Intergroup Communication Committee**

Contact Person: Pam C.  
BOT Liaison: Kim B.  
First Meeting: August 16<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday) 2-3pm CT  
Total Budget Request: \$300

**Conference Internet Committee**

Chair: Tim F.  
BOT Liaison: Leon C.  
First Meeting: Unknown at this time  
Total Budget Request: Unknown at this time

**Conference Literature Committee**

Interim Chair: Sam A.  
BOT Liaison: Bob F.  
First Meeting: August 8<sup>th</sup> 9am PT  
Total Budget Request: \$2875

**Members Relationship to the BOT/FWS Committee**

Chair:  
Vice Chair:  
BOT Liaison: Leon C.  
First Meeting:  
Total Budget Request:

**Members Retention Committee**

Contact person for the first meeting: Pam C.  
BOT Liaison: Tom F.  
First Meeting: August 16<sup>th</sup> 12:30-1:30pm CT  
Total Budget Request: \$300

**Conference Prison Outreach Committee**

Chair: Garry K.  
BOT Liaison: Leon C.  
First Meeting: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 4pm ET  
Total Budget Request: \$600

**Conference Public Information Committee**

Chair: Monique S.  
Vice Chair: Mark C.  
BOT Liaison: Bob F.  
First Meeting: August 16<sup>th</sup> 1:30pm PT  
Total Budget Request: \$900

**Conference Service Committee**

Chair: Ron G.  
BOT Liaison: Tom F.  
First Meeting: Unknown at this time  
Total Budget Request: Unknown at this time

**Conference Steps & Traditions Committee**

Chair: Ava M.  
BOT Liaison: Kim B.  
12x12 First Meeting: August 22<sup>nd</sup> 1pm CT  
Traditions Study First Meeting: August 21<sup>st</sup> 3pm CT  
Total Budget Request: \$300

**Conference Translation Committee**

Chair: Jacinthe L.  
Vice Chair: Beth L.

BOT Liaison: Rita H.

First Meeting: August 22<sup>nd</sup> 9am PT

Total Budget Request: \$300

*The BOT Liaison for the Conference Sponsorship Committee, currently inactive, is Leon C.*

### **Board of Trustees Committee Members**

BOT Chair: Rita H.

BGNC Membership (Chair in **Bold**): **Kim B.**, Rita H., Leon C.

BFOC Membership (Chair in **Bold**): **Tom F.**, Richard C.

BPRC Membership (Chair in **Bold**): **Bob F.**, Chris D.

### **BOT Liaisons to the Conference Committees**

Conference Anorexia Committee (CAC)-Richard C.

Conference By-Laws Committee (CBC)-Kim B.

Conference Charter Committee (CCC)-Kim B.

Conference Diversity Committee (CDC)-Richard C.

Conference Finance Committee (CFC)-Tom F.

Conference Healthy Relationships Committee (CHRC)-Richard C.

Conference Interfellowship Committee (CIFC)-Rita H.

Conference Intergroup Communication Committee (CICC)-Kim B.

Conference Internet Committee (CIC)-Leon C.

Conference Journal Committee (CJC)-Rita H.

Conference Literature Committee (CLC)-Bob F.

Conference Members Relations to the BOT and F.W.S. Committee (CMRBOTC)-Leon C.

Conference Members Retention Committee (CMRC)-Tom F.

Conference Prison Outreach Committee (CPOC)-Leon C.

Conference Public Information Committee (CPIC)-Bob F.

Conference Service Committee (CSC)-Tom F.

Conference Sponsorship Committee (CSPC) (Inactive)-Leon C.

Conference Steps and Traditions Committee (CSTC)-Kim B.

Conference Translation Committee (CTC)-Rita H.

### **Conference Committee Confirmation Vote**

The vote to confirm all conference committees (listed below) passed by an up-down vote of 29-0.

Conference Anorexia Committee (CAC)

Conference By-Laws Committee (CBC)

Conference Charter Committee (CCC)

Conference Diversity Committee (CDC)

Conference Finance Committee (CFC)

Conference Healthy Relationships Committee (CHRC)  
Conference Interfellowship Committee (CIFC)  
Conference Intergroup Communication Committee (CICC)  
Conference Internet Committee (CIC)  
Conference Journal Committee (CJC)  
Conference Literature Committee (CLC)  
Conference Members Relations to the BOT and F.W.S. Committee (CMRBOTC)  
Conference Members Retention Committee (CMRC)  
Conference Prison Outreach Committee (CPOC)  
Conference Public Information Committee (CPIC)  
Conference Service Committee (CSC)  
Conference Sponsorship Committee (CSPC)  
Conference Steps and Traditions Committee (CSTC)  
Conference Translation Committee (CTC)

#### **Announcements from the General Manager**

Linda Hamilton announced that the auction raised approximately \$6100. Literature sales went well and additional donations. She reminded everyone that she will be on vacation and unreachable for the next week. She also thanked everyone for their assistance and participation in this year's ABM.

Various announcements were made to close the ABM, including a statement of gratitude from Rita H., BOT Chair, to Deb W. for acting as the record keeper for the 2009 ABM, and Marcella M., for acting as record keeper back-up for this session.

The General Assembly closed with the Serenity Prayer.