

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

**2012 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes  
July 24-27, 2012**

Crowne Plaza Hotel and Hanalei Conference Center  
San Diego, CA

**Conference Theme:** The 10<sup>th</sup> Tradition; *“S.L.A.A. has no opinion on outside issues; hence the S.L.A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.”*

**Abbreviations you need to know:**

BOT	(Board of Trustees)	CHRC	(Healthy Relationships)
HP	(Higher Power)	CIFC	(InterFellowship)
ABC/M	(Annual Business Conference/Meeting)	CICC	(Intergroup Communication)
CSM	(Conference Service Manual)	CIC	(Internet)
BMIS	(Business Meeting Items Summary)	CJC	( <i>the Journal</i> )
IRC	(International Recovery Convention)	CLC	(Literature)
BFOC	(Board Finance and Operating Committee)	CMRBOTC	(Member Relations to the BOT/F.W.S.)
BGNC	(Board Governance and Nominating Committee)	CMRC	(Member Retention)
BPRC	(Board Public Relations Committee)	CPOC	(Prison Outreach)
<b><u>Conference Committees</u></b>		CPIC	(Public Information)
CAC	(Anorexia)	CSC	(Service)
CBC	(By-Laws)	CSPC	(Sponsorship)
CCAC	(Concepts Adaptation)	CSTC	(Steps and Traditions)
CCC	(Charter)	CTC	(Translation)
CDC	(Diversity)		
CFC	(Finance)		

**Tuesday, July 24, 2012**

(After a Conference Chairs Meeting, New Delegate Orientation and lunch, the General Assembly began at 1:00 PM.)

**General Assembly; Tuesday, July 24, 2012 – 1:00 PM**

Facilitator – Jack S.; Assistant Facilitator – Tom F.; Backup Facilitator – Roger R.; Record Keeper for this ABM – Garry K.

The meeting began with 37 of 39 voting members present, which represented a quorum. The meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer, the reading of the 12 Steps, the 12 Traditions and the 12 Recommended Guidelines for Dealing with the Media. The BOT members introduced themselves: Tom F., Rita H., Steve B., Tom B., Susan G., and Rick B. Other voting members were from San Diego (2), Greater Delaware Valley, Los Angeles (4), German-speaking Countries (2), North Texas, New England, New York (2), Cincinnati, UK (2), Sacramento, Houston (2), Austin, Tampa Bay (3), Santa Cruz (CA), Northeast Ohio, Seattle, San Francisco East Bay (4), Ontario (CAN), S.L.A.A Online and the Journal Editor. In addition there were 4 observers and 2 staff.

The CCC chair gave direction regarding voting and the ABM Binders. The F.W.S. Office Supervisor gave updated information regarding the hotel, schedules and activities for the week. It was announced that someone will be available in each room for inactive committees in the event that anyone wants to reactivate the committee. Information was also given regarding how to gain Wi-Fi Access in the General Assembly room and the Conference breakout rooms. The location of the hospitality suite was given and changes to the committee sessions were distributed. Everyone was reminded to go to the microphone if they desire to speak.

The session ended with general announcements and a 15 minute break

### **Getting to Know the BOT/FWS; Tuesday, July 24, 2012- 2:15 PM**

Facilitator – Roger R.; Assistant Facilitator – Andrew H.; Backup Facilitator – Kelli H.

In this session, each BOT member and office staff member explained his/her duties. Hector, the mailroom associate, is responsible for filling orders correctly and in a timely manner, Pamela, the bookkeeper, has been with the office since January 5, 2011 and is in charge of accounting for all the money, opening mail, receiving orders, getting them to Hector to fill and ship, providing receipts for contributions if requested, sending contributions to BOT treasurer and providing financial information to the BOT.

Tom F., BOT Chair, has been in the Fellowship for 11 years. Steve B., Chair of BFOC and treasurer of the fellowship, has been in the Fellowship for about 5 years, has been doing service for 3 years, watches the numbers and is in charge of supervising the office supervisor. He is proud of the work done this year. Rick B., has been in the fellowship 4 years, became a volunteer 3 years ago and became a delegate 2 years ago. He gives back by doing service, has chaired intergroup, chairs BGNC and was appointed to BOT in February. Tom B. has learned much from doing service in his 4 years in the Fellowship. At the Intergroup level, he met several people who are highly devoted to doing service and who taught him how to do service and become healthy in his sexuality. He has also been involved with *the Journal*; Susan G. has been in the Fellowship since 2003. Service has helped her learn to grow in recovery and sobriety. She has been involved with online meetings using Skype, was encouraged to begin BOT service and was appointed to the BOT in March. Rita H. has been on the BOT for 4 years 4 months, but has been involved in the Fellowship since 2000. She currently serves as F.W.S. Office Supervisor, lives in Montreal, has started meetings in Montreal, and formerly served as a delegate.

Tom F. spoke regarding the work done by the BOT. The BOT lost 2 members this year and appointed 3 new BOT members; sometimes it's a challenge to stay in contact with the BOT committee chairs and the office, which is getting stronger. There are 3 other employees who are not in attendance.

Steve B. spoke regarding BFOC, which is responsible for the financial and business operations of the Fellowship, serves as treasurer of the Fellowship, and oversees the office through Office Supervisor; has subcommittees, such as HRS (human resources), which has established several new policies (including a Whistle Blower policy), the CTS (copyrights and translations), which is responsible for protecting copyrights and aiding with translations and working with literature reformatting. The Web Team works with the Webmaster and is proud of the F.W.S. Website. The ABC/M Planning and the BFOC meet twice a month – first meeting for business and second meeting to review financial reports; is proud of the speed with which orders are being filled and shipped.

Rick B. spoke regarding the BGNC; he was appointed to the BGNC in 2011 as a non-BOT member and elected as chair right after being appointed to BOT. He works with nominating BOT members and BOT Committees and is responsible for streamlining the work of BOT and its policies, nominating and conducting elections and seeking out new members for the BOT and BOT Committees. Rick found 2 new non-BOT members to work with the committee and who were responsible for getting the application process completed for Susan G. to be appointed to BOT. This year, volunteers will be involved with conducting the election due to Rick's recusal as a result of his standing for confirmation; the BOT chair is also recused and the other member of the BGNC is serving in a capacity which recuses him.

Tom B. spoke regarding BPRC; updated media request information via the Website; a list of media requests for this year is included in binder; there were some interview which were broadcast with members shown in shadow; responsible for FWS newsletter; Conference and Convention Planning Committee (CCPC) received 2 bids this year for the ABM and IRC; has been working on a new process; worked with the *Measuring Progress* pamphlet which should be available soon.

Rita H. spoke as Office Supervisor; CSM contains duties of the office. There are 3 service entities: the office, BOT, and Conference; the office is the link to the outside world, assists the BOT in carrying out its duties and legal requirements, coordinates with all staff members and contractors, directs people to proper places for help and resources, prints and distributes literature, prepares the necessary legally- required reports, assists with starting new meetings and working with problems that develop and letting people know that they have no legal authority and are not the S.L.A.A. police. They are aided by accountants and attorneys in Texas and Massachusetts and coordinate with CCC to conduct the ABM.

**Questions from the floor:**

- Could you report the appendix information? It is the index which is in orange on page 15.
- Who is now in charge of the BPRC? Tom B. is the BOT member who is serving on the committee.
- When did Ayana leave the BOT? July 19.
- How many BOT members do we have and how many are available? 6 presently, 3 open terms; members serve 3 year terms. We have 2 seats to be filled for unfinished terms.
- Comment regarding order fulfillment: In placing an order with FWS and another vendor, the order from FWS arrived first.
- How can we reduce the costs of shipping literature to overseas members, and can we get literature available online? How can we help? Are we using technology? Tough balance; we cannot give literature away. We are beginning to look into e-book publishing, but materials would first need to be converted into a different format, and then converted to Kindle or some other e-reader format. This is more expensive than we thought it might be. We are currently contacting other fellowships to find out how they did it and making efforts to see how we could do this. Online, we have the 7 Core Documents of S.L.A.A. as well as 4 other free pamphlets available. We are currently working on translations which are being done by volunteers in different Intergroups and working on a Spanish translation which is a big project. It is important to keep volunteers working on this because it requires many people to make it happen. We do have to sell our literature or we would be in great financial trouble. There are licensing agreements available and ask for 10% of the sales. We are working on ways to make information available for other languages for publication locally, making sure copyrights are followed.
- Could members publish literature in their own countries? This would have to be on a case by case basis since we do not have a policy in place regarding this. Sometimes it is more expensive to publish overseas than to simply mail materials. International shipping is a serious problem. We now have tracking numbers from the USPS. Have shipped some literature free to other countries, but they are not being picked up. There are issues with mailing to certain countries.
- Are there still loose ends regarding problems in the office last year? Yes, this will be answered in BOT reports.
- What is the future of San Antonio location? The office is currently stable and running smoothly; more so than ever. Have a number of years left on the lease. There are now meetings available in San Antonio, although they are small.
- How can we reverse lower contributions and increase them? We would love to increase contributions. We have improved the Prudent Reserve with efficiency which will be discussed later. We will continue looking at ways to increase contributions. Even the small contributions are greatly appreciated and welcomed.
- May we contribute via website? Yes either credit card or e-check through the FWS website.
- What happened with Ayana? Gave 2 months' notice and did this as a sober decision and served to the end. She is willing to talk about it.
- Could you repeat the 7 Core Documents as well as the free pamphlets which are available? *For the Professional, Addicted to Sex/Addicted to Love, The 60/40 Way and Twelve Recommended Guidelines for Dealing with the Media, Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, 40 Questions, Preamble, Characteristics of Sex and Love Addiction, and Signs of Recovery.*
- Regarding Board service: Are serving as a non-BOT member on a BOT committee and having previously been a delegate the new requirements, above having done local service, since they are not listed in the By-Laws? The only requirement is willingness and 3 years sobriety, but those are insufficient for serving as a BOT member. These items are recommended but not required; these are good recommendations. Just having been sober 3 years and doing local service do not equip a person to understand the process and service with the BOT. The BOT serves at the desire of the Conference.
- If these things are not necessary, how can one serve? One would not be disqualified if s/he had not served on a BOT committee. These things are helpful. Sometimes an applicant does not possess a particular skill set which is currently needed. Each BOT committee chair is responsible for filling positions. We do not have to accept everyone who applies.

- Why are people not receiving responses? There is no current need or we often need specialized talents. BOT cannot take everyone because not everyone has the skills needed. One may run without having served on a BOT committee. One may nominate themselves from floor. (A reminder was given to keep the questions in a general tone and not on a personal level which should be done one on one. It was explained that at the time the inquirer applied that the BGNC was not working due to the resignation of the BGNC chair and no other committee needed help),
- Is there a way to be more inclusive? This is the business arm of the Fellowship, not the recovery part.
- Could a member of another Fellowship serve on BOT? Yes, if they have certain qualifications and are available and willing to serve. This is explained in the BOT candidate section of the binder. We continually look for those individuals.
- Comment – Reminder of the need for anonymity.

A 15 minute break was taken at the end of this session.

### **BOT Financial Report; Tuesday, July 24, 2012- 4:00 PM,**

Facilitator – Roger R.; Assistant Facilitator – Andrew H.; Backup Facilitator – Kelli H.

Steve B., BFOC chair and treasurer, gave a PowerPoint presentation and distributed a printed copy of the report which stated that F.W.S. is the business part of the Fellowship and is responsible for publishing all literature, fulfilling orders for merchandise, maintaining the F.W.S. website with the help of a paid webmaster, helping with the publication of the F.W.S. Newsletter, answering calls and media inquiries regarding sex and love addiction, arranging the IRC and ABM and protecting copyrights. We now have an employee who will keep track of all the translations and other publications.

The Fellowship is managed by the BOT, with the BFOC being responsible for all financial operations and overseeing the office supervisor. BFOC meets twice a month. The corporate officers for the current year are President, Tom F., Clerk, Rita H., and Treasurer, Steve B. The office supervisor oversees the day to day operations and supervises the staff. These are the administrative positions. The office supervisor has taken on all of the responsibilities which a General Manager would have at no cost to the Fellowship.

The fiscal year runs from October 1- September 31. 45% of our income comes from donations and 55% from sales, which is something that should be reversed; the numbers shown were the most recent numbers through May, 2012. Financial reports are generated from a balance sheet that gives a snapshot of assets and liabilities on an accrual basis. Profit and Loss are calculated monthly, quarterly and annually on a cash basis. We don't have debt spending. We need to pay bills when they are due, and currently we have no debts. We need to keep an accurate inventory so that we may know what we are worth. Financial reports with verifiable details are reviewed monthly and are verified by the bookkeeper. We have reduced expenses and shipping costs by shipping USPS and have found other ways to reduce expenses. Now we have complete verifiable financial accounting, and will undergo a complete professional audit this year by an accountant. Our last withdrawal from Prudent Reserve was made 2 years ago. Repaid \$20,000 to prudent reserve and have not taken any withdrawals since 2010. Tax returns and reports have been filed in a timely manner since the changes were made in the office, but donations are still down from past levels prior to the crisis in the office.

Our balance sheet shows current total assets at the end of May consisting of \$218,000 in bank accounts, plus some small accounts receivable. Total assets are nearly \$284,000 in liabilities and an equity balance out at \$2557. Our greatest expenditure of the year is the ABM and we do not use credit cards or credit.

We maintain 3 types of bank accounts: a General Operating account, an ABM account and the PRF (Prudent Reserve Fund). Balances are higher than last year and fixed assets are up from last year. We are now investing in Federal bonds instead of stocks because they are more stable, but are more conservative in the amount of income they create.

Profit and loss report included total revenue of around \$360,000, and expenses around \$350,000 since the beginning of the current fiscal year, which is an increase from the previous year. Our net assets are now at \$184,346. Our total income for the current fiscal year to date is \$210,202.68. Our expenses are consistent, and although they are falling, they are still high. The Conference committees spent \$143 this year.

Contract services in the reports include services of office staff such as the bookkeeper and the webmaster, which eliminates employee costs because we are not set up to take care of the deductions for taxes, etc.

Total contributions are at over \$100,000 from groups, individuals and Intergroups. It is becoming more difficult for Intergroups to operate without incorporation and tax exempt status; this is about the same but the types have shifted slightly. The cost of goods total is \$84,000, compared to \$192,000 last year. There is a reduction of cost of goods from \$65,000 to \$32,000. Donations are up slightly from a year ago and we brought our expenses down slightly.

The budget will be prepared in August/September based on 2011-12 expenses. A copy of current budget is included in the delegate binder with the BFOC report. Overall, we are financially healthy; donations are still important because of the need to hire a general manager for the office, publish an e-book, and write the 12 and 12, which will require a professional writer.

**Questions from the floor:**

- Is the Journal self-supporting since it is not usually included with literature? No, it is not quite self-supporting, yet.
- How much does it cost to publish an e-book? The numbers can vary depending on the format and platform. Some numbers indicate \$7,000 just to change the e-book or take a .doc to the proper format and extra encryption to protect copyrights. We are still in the early stages of investigation and do not have a firm number yet.
- For background, what did the General Manager do and what happened? This happened in late 2010, and she was let go for failure to file income and other reports in a timely fashion. Tom F. will give more information later.
- Is anyone aware of AA's pie chart in terms of their revenue and donations? I believe that they make more from sales than donations. In most 12 Step fellowships this is the case.
- Why are donations down? It is merely a matter of opinion because we don't know what is in people's minds; could be loss of trust from previous situations.
- How many states have meetings or Intergroups? In some areas the meetings and Intergroups are few and small. We want good financial stability so that we can experience more growth.
- With having a full financial statement, can you give us more information regarding the inner workings of the office? What you saw was the full financial statement, that's all the numbers we have and these are published quarterly.
- Why would the CPA not certify the previous records? This has to do with some lost records from the past year. We will be able to show everything this year. We will send out the complete PowerPoint presentation to everyone to take back to their Intergroups.
- Comment: This past year is evidence of the need for business skills on the BOT. At one time it was good and at other times it was not good, but has become pretty good this past year.
- Now that we are going to have the accountant certify the numbers, will the auditor's notes be available? The BOT will need to discuss this question, but it shouldn't be a problem.
- Since we have around \$218,000 in stock funds, how can we find a safer investment so that we can be confident? This is on the BOT agenda to review.
- Can we talk about how to increase donations in the realms of attraction over promotion? In recent years we have been busy righting the ship, but now we can look into this further. We need to make use of the funds and make sure that they are sent to FWS.
- Can you describe our assets further? Some are liquid (bank accounts) which change constantly. The majority of our assets are in our books, chips, literature and equipment, a little furniture and the Prudent Reserve Fund.
- Since the ABM loses money, how can we make it more profitable? Perhaps raising the cost to attend? If we raise costs, fewer people attend; it is difficult to calculate the exact costs and we know that we will have to pay some. The envelopes are helpful; they used to send a stack of them with literature orders, this is a good idea and should be included again. We will look into it.
- Since we have free Spanish literature available for other countries, where would we make suggestions for further suggestions? These can be sent to the BOT chair, office supervisor or treasurer. We made the Spanish literature but no one is buying it. We are sending it to certain countries to let them know that we have this literature available (started in the CTC).

- *the Journal* numbers were given through June: \$3816 in subscriptions; cost is \$ 4657. These numbers are rough but we have to look at them.
- Since our largest expense is the ABM, what would be the wisdom to looking at more affordable locations? We are always talking about these, and we know that it would not be fair for people who would attend from distances. We are open to suggestions.

A15-minute break was taken before next session

### **General Assembly; Tuesday, July 24, 2012 – 5:00 PM**

Facilitator- Jack S.; Assistant Facilitator – Rick B.; Backup Facilitator – Karma K.; Time keeper – Olin; Spiritual reminder– David B.

**Board Reports:** (the complete reports are found in the binder; only highlights are included in this report).

Rita H. reported as Office Supervisor. She handed out a report including a job description and what happens in the office. Staff and volunteers respond to calls within 24-72 hours, the mail is opened weekly by 2 people, checks are cancelled immediately and when a certain number is reached the checks are sent to the treasurer to deposit. BOT members visit the office regularly.

Tom F. reported as BOT chair. He will be providing a written report. There have been many changes in the office and BOT, but we've kept moving forward. We filed a complaint with the San Antonio Police Department this year regarding the former general manager. The official reason for her release is unsatisfactory performance after a warning due to not fulfilling responsibilities, including filing reports in a timely fashion. She was denied unemployment because she was dismissed for just cause: it was discovered she had overpaid herself and mismanaged funds. This mismanagement included destroying one year of financial records, which has hindered the reporting to the Fellowship, and made it difficult to file the police report. The San Antonio Police Department has reported no action and no further information is available. As a result, we have changed policies regarding mail and other issues and added a Whistle-Blower policy.

Each BOT committee chair committee was given specific tasks to perform: BGNC was tasked with finding new candidates, BFOC was tasked with adequately filling office positions, and BPRC was tasked with creating a process for funding 12 & 12 and other literature. (Rita H. visited the office 5 times, while Tom F. and Steve B. have each visited the office twice.)

Steve B. reported for BFOC. He provided a complete report. Their primary job is to supervise the office and the Office Supervisor. They have worked on policies, procedures and best practices, kept reports filed, set up grievance and whistle blower policies, oversee literature reformatting and updating, work with copyright and translation information, and give recognition to the volunteers who give of themselves unselfishly.

Rick B. reported for BGNC. They focus on internal policies regarding BOT and worked on appointing new BOT members. Recruitment is the primary focus of this committee. BGNC is currently working on copy of BOT manual and work with updating. They will work with election this year and have worked on 2 documents to give a timeline for election to make it easier for future BGNC members. The election will be conducted by volunteers due to Rick being recused from participating.

Tom B. reported for BPRC. This group deals with outreach and media requests and works with webmaster, the Call Squad, the convention planning committee, and the F.W.S. newsletter. They need to develop some good timeline documents.

**Conference Committee reports:** (Complete reports are found in the binder; this just includes some highlights).

CAC – Exciting productive year. Anorexia starter kit is now available. Anorexia -1-2-3 literature on BMIS, and currently responding to requests for first responders, and working on Anorexia 4-5-6 literature.

CBC – Meets every 2 months. Has not been very active this year. Looking at some typographical inconsistencies while reviewing the 12 Concepts.

CCAC – Usually meets monthly, but began meeting twice a month. It's been a slow process, but began to take shape and have drafted a motion for this ABM. Have sent motion to CBC.

CCC – Meets monthly. CSM is being revised; changed terms from micro/macro to facilitator and assistant facilitator. We have worked with setting up links to the various Conference Committees on the website and also worked with planning ABM. Have discussed alternate technology on Chairs committee.

CDC – Reactivated with 5 members. Prepared change to preamble and diversity statement and came up with 17 survey questions for the membership.

CFC – Early work with preparing budget. Developed a flyer regarding contributions and discussed challenge campaign. Discussions are in the works regarding technical support and hiring special workers to keep track of drafts of literature.

CHRC – Complete report in binder. There has been much turnover in chairs. Want to work toward more phone meetings and series and want to finish the Healthy Relationships booklet.

CIFC – inactive  
CICC – inactive

CIC – Need help; perhaps should include technology in our name. Haven't had much participation.

CJC – Has improved the quality of *the Journal* and worked on policies. Deactivated e-Journal subcommittee and currently working toward an international version. Have since fielded requests from professionals to advertise in *the Journal*.

CLC – Works with planning and writing new literature. Also has Writing Group Liaison Subcommittee. Working on manuscript development. 12 & 12 has moved to the CLC to prepare a draft. They maintain a friends list and have provided some feedback regarding professional literature. Just started a story book project. CDs are available for each delegate which contain current draft literature.

CMRBOTC – inactive  
CMRC – inactive

CPOC- Added new members and pen pals. Always in need of new pen pals. Began a new meeting in prison. Working on a simple language version of 12 Steps and have furnished literature and copies of the Basic Text to inmates who request them.

CPIC – Provides information for inquiries, works with safe response materials, and is currently working with several pieces of literature for use by local intergroup, Outreach Dos (has been a major project). Balance of reports will be finished Wednesday morning.

Following some announcements and reminders, the General Assembly was adjourned for the day at 6:00 PM for dinner and the International Speaker Meeting. General Assembly was scheduled to resume on Wednesday, July 25, 2012 at 8:00 AM. A reminder was given that the deadline for Motions or IFDs is 7:00 PM.

### **Wednesday, July 25, 2012**

#### **General Assembly; Wednesday, July 25, 2012 - 8:00 AM**

Facilitator – Tom F.; Assistant Facilitator- Juanita J.; Back up Facilitator – Michael J.; Time keeper Dave S.; Spiritual reminder – Jonathan K.; Vote counters – Conrad G. and Karen S.

The session began with all 39 members present and continued with committee reports.

CSC – This has been a slow year with minimal participation. Requested additional participation. Have created a ladder of service list and are currently working on service project ideas.

CSPC – Works with long distance sponsorship. There is a shortage of people available to serve as long distance sponsors. Have a teleseries on the second Saturday of each month (information included in ABM Binder). Worked on information regarding various forms of sponsorship.

CSTC – Meet monthly with a combination of Free Conference Call and Skype. Answer questions regarding Steps and Traditions, responded to 10 questions during the year, including real time discussions, submit responses to Newsletter and post them annually to the FWS website. Also respond to inquiries from Conference Committees, Intergroups and retreat committees. Already have additional questions ready for the coming year. Responses provide complete discussion with various view-points. Only edits done are for grammar, sentence structure and to maintain anonymity of the inquirer and locations.

CTC – Working hard and doing much.

#### **Presentation from BGNC regarding the election:**

Rick B. explained the process and candidate information will be passed out. Everyone needs to know that the doors are locked at 8:00 AM on Friday morning for the voting. Ballots will be passed out to all voting members who will vote and then votes will be counted. Once the votes have been counted the doors will be opened and the results announced. There will be a Q & A for the candidates on Thursday afternoon. Questions may be given between sessions to Garry K., who will put them together and give them to the questioner. Rick B. explained the absentee ballot availability.

**Question:** Last year we had a flow of people asking questions to the candidates. Am I correct that this will not be used this year? Yes, since no member of the BGNC will be able to participate as the moderator to aid the volunteer moderator.

Rick B. had to recuse himself from the presentation due to the fact that he is a candidate who is up for confirmation. Steve L. volunteered to receive nominations from the floor. Floor nominations were opened and one nomination was received but the nominee declined. Floor nominations were closed after a 30 second spiritual reminder.

#### **Motion 12n01/12-01 Approve the Anorexia 1-2-3 document**

Time was given for committee comments:

- The CLC supports approval of this document.
- CAC overwhelmingly request that this literature be approved and would like to acknowledge those who have gone before us to get this to this point.
- CSTC asks the members to consider Step 11, Step 12, Tradition 1, Tradition 3 and Tradition 5. CDC supports Conference approval.
- Three Pros and cons were heard from the delegates beginning with the Pro microphone:
  - Affects the Fellowship
  - It is going to be a valuable asset and recommends approval
  - May not be perfect but it has been through the process (asked for more information regarding this, but it is not appropriate at this time)
  - Emails are constantly received for information regarding anorexia – may not be perfect but is a good document that supports the 12<sup>th</sup> Step. Some edits may be needed but should not be held back
  - There is a great need
  - Women's phone group began using this information; it was well received and has attracted many members
  - Valuable resource for those who are anorexic and those who *may* be anorexic
  - Helps us see additional things within our addiction
- Con microphone:
  - Solution focused but is limited with its information
  - Anorexia is an integral part of our addiction and not just limited to anorexics
  - Divisive because it is not all inclusive



- In the Basic Text the writers chose to leave it out for the sake of unity

The voting process was explained and time was given for questions regarding the voting process followed by a 30-second period of silence.

**Vote was 34-0-4.** Since there were no votes there was no need to hear the minority opinion.

**Motion passed** by a majority of over 2/3 of the voting members and is binding on the BOT.

### **Motion 12n02/12-02 Approve the language of the S.L.A.A. 12 Concepts**

Time was given for committee comments:

- CSTC asked that the Conference consider Traditions 1, 2, 8, 9, Steps 2 and 11.
- A statement was read from the BOT which is happy to be moving forward with the Concepts, with no particular position on this version.
- A spokesperson read a statement from the maker of the motion.
- The committee heard the mandate of the Conference and set about to create a version of the 12 Concepts for S.L.A.A. by first asking for feedback from the Conference.
- This adaptation was the result of the committee's work and encouraged its approval.
- Three Pros and Cons were heard beginning with the Pro microphone:
  - Like the document ( read from parts of the document).
  - Will help the fellowship and improve our experience.

No cons were offered.

The voting process was explained and time was given for questions on the process followed by a 30-second spiritual reminder.

**Vote was 36-0-2.** Since there were no votes in opposition there was no minority opinion.

**Motion passed** with greater than a 2/3 majority, it is binding on the BOT.

### **IFD 12n03/12-03 Discussion for feedback on the Outreach Dos document**

Time was given for Committee comments (15 minutes):

- CSTC asks the Conference consider Traditions 5, 10, 11 and 12
- Some are not comfortable with term "dos," and there is a problem with creating social networks.
- In favor of this document is the frontier for spiritual growth.
- It is culmination of 3 years work and surveying the fellowship.
- The committee became proactive with this document.
- Like information given, but would like direction regarding defining promotion vs. attraction.
- Primary effort is to help addict who still suffers.
- Intergroup likes the document, but would like it to be categorized into *several* categories.
- Better title of suggested outreach tools to let people know it is suggestions.
- It has been in making for 4 years, and may need better title.
- It is vital to do outreach. Social media is out there and we need to recognize it while protecting anonymity with use of these suggestions.
- Have used some of these suggestions in our area via the media, but would like more information as to how this would be used.
- It is a wonderful piece of information.
- Purpose is not for sale, but as a free resource for Intergroups.
- The original intent was to be a part of a kit with more free information. It could be listed on the website with other free information. Like the idea of a kit that gives direction.
- In favor of having some good guidelines, which are needed and look forward to seeing this competed.
- Our Intergroup has made some efforts, because the way it is done now is reinventing the wheel.

Discussion closed; space will be available for this document on the first version of the 2013 BMIS.

### **IFD – 12n04/12-04 Discussion for feedback on Statement of Diversity**

Time was given for committee comments (15 minutes):

- CSTC asks that the Conference consider Traditions 1, 4, 5, 10 and 12.
- We have spent good amount of time on statement of diversity.
- Other fellowships have done much in the realms of diversity. This would be good to read at the start of meetings.
- Not sure how it will be used, but support the document.
- There is a problem with the statement regarding the sex and love addict and anorexic.
- Not sure how we would use this.
- We need to reaffirm that all are welcomed here.
- Love it, but need more clarification for legal status.
- Encourage fellowship to address anorexia directly.
- 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph is a confusing love statement.
- We feel included; does not leave us out. It comes from the heart and does not exclude anyone, which is what it should show.
- Love the document and would like to see it on websites and read at meetings.
- Had not thought about diversity, but would like more information on self-defined recovery.
- Like this, and would like to see some edits and come back at the next ABM as a motion.
- Enormously important to have.
- Comes from an area with much diversity.
- There is an issue with any type of devaluation, as this should be positive.
- Our area is not evenly split and needs to show that everyone is welcome; need to attract more minorities, need to pull in minorities.

Time expired for this item. Space will be reserved on first version of the 2013 BMIS for this to come back as a motion.

(Due to technical difficulties, the last 2 discussions were not recorded.)

Following announcements, the General Assembly was adjourned at 9:30 AM for a break, Conference Committee meetings and lunch. Business resumed at 2:15 PM.

### **General Assembly; Wednesday, July 25, 2012 – 2:15 PM**

Facilitator – Jack S.; Assistant Facilitator – Karma K.; Backup Facilitator – Rick B.; Time Keeper- Jonathan K.; Spiritual Reminder – Sara S.; Vote Counters – David B. and Linda W.

The session began with the reading of the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions and included 39 persons present.

A gentle reminder was made regarding applause and side bar conversations. Additionally, everyone was reminded to place principles before personalities and speak in the “I,” not to call out the names of others.

### **Motion -12n05/12-05 To approve a change to the Preamble**

Time was given for committee comments:

- CHRC supports the intent this motion and would like to come up with agreeable wording
- CSTC asks the Conference to consider Traditions 1, 3, 5, 10, and 12
- The Tampa Bay and San Francisco East Bay offered a friendly amendment to change the wording to - **“We find a common denominator in our obsessive /compulsive patterns, which transcends any personal differences of sexual orientation or gender identity.”**
- Motion was made and seconded to accept this friendly amendment; the friendly amendment was accepted by the submitter and the motion was amended
- Three Pros and Cons beginning with the pro microphone:
  - Transcending is the better word in the program

- A question was asked about the cost and using up old materials. Response was that old materials are used up before anything changes
- Covers everyone in this motion
- Did not originally agree and feel that this is discriminatory, but it covers things more completely
- Irrelevant; refers to non-orientation issues
- All meetings are, to an extent discriminatory
- Felt strongly about this, and suggested the word “transcends” is a better word to use and unifies
- Many gay men felt that it was an unnecessary change, and felt that they were welcomed and that it referred to differences and not the members themselves
- Our Intergroup felt strongly about this change in a positive way. Support the change of the word to “transcends”
- We are saying that the current text does not represent current feeling
- Why do we want to change? AA used supplemental materials to cover changes and kept the first 164 pages of Big Book intact. We could rewrite much of the literature and massage the truth to suit ourselves

A point of clarification was asked as to if the vote failed the motion would revert to the original version.

The response was that it would not.

The voting process was explained and time was given for questions regarding the process followed by a 30-second silence.

**Vote was 31-2 -6** An opportunity was given for the minority to be heard, but no one spoke.

**Motion passed** by greater than a 2/3 majority and is binding on the BOT.

#### **IFD – 12n06/12-06 Regarding the Professional Writers Process**

Time was given for committee comments:

- CMRBOTC feels that this needs revision because we would not have opportunity to review the draft
- CLC feels that they have not had time to review this document
- CHRC feels something positive might happen if we adopt this process
- CSTC asks the delegates to consider Traditions 1,2, 5, 8 and Step 12
- BPRC comments - 5 considerations, Conference weighs in at the beginning, no literature will be developed without Conference approval;
- It moves forward with a system of checks and balances
- In line with Concept 3; there are other areas where the Conference has delegated oversight
- New way to efficiently develop literature
- We could change the policy and come back with a motion with a period of time to review the policy and make the necessary changes

20 minutes given for additional comments:

- Nervous about literature being printed without Conference approval
- Not sure of the intent of the IFD – need clarification
- The BPRC is looking for feedback to prepare a motion for next year
- Favor IFD regarding hiring professional writers, needed for quality literature, can hire special workers
- The Conference is the final say
- This process has been simplified and requires further simplification, don't want to waste money on non-use of the professional writers if we can't use the literature written
- We need to grow up and need to keep an open mind, would be difficult to try to get Conference approval on a major piece of literature
- Should be reviewed by the Conference between steps 7 and 8
- Need a better process which is integrated between professionals and volunteers
- Would like to see us move closer to completing some literature
- We will have to be very business-like since money involved and would have to be careful about conflict of interest
- Highly complicated and complex; should always approve literature at Conference level

- Conceptual approval is good and select writer in the Conference
- Could be difficult to approve a manuscript in the Conference
- Should have a select group
- Don't think it is transparent; need to rethink the process
- Believe in streamlining the process, need to have more people seeing the proposed literature
- AA hasn't changed their literature in years, possibly due to the fear of losing members and their ability to maintain sobriety; we need additional literature or we could lose members;
- For hiring professionals: several writers in the program have volunteered to help
- Would like this to be flexible and would like to see this broken down in 3 sections: how to hire paid writers, how to use paid writers to finish a small document or finish a larger document
- Conference approval should be handled separately
- Need manuscript development process; we did have the money when this was originally presented, but currently don't have money to do this (theory rather than need)
- Should come from members of the fellowship
- Should represent solid recovery and be in S.L.A.A. (person in charge of our literature)
- AA uses a complex process for comment
- Need more focus and prioritization
- Process is good and was a part of a motion several years ago
- Want more feedback from fellowship
- Nothing here to handle cash flow in and out assigned to this; need to clearly identify the cash flow process

Time has expired and there will be a place reserved on the first version of the 2013 BMIS. Some explanation was given regarding some questions regarding the election process as to who was up for election and confirmation. Conference members can vote for as many people as they desire.

A time was given for announcements prior to a break before the next session at 3:45 PM.

**General Assembly; Wednesday, July 25, 2012 – 3:45 PM** Facilitator – Karma K.; Assistant Facilitator – Jack S.; Backup Facilitator – Rick B.; Time Keeper – Jonathan K.

The session began with 39 present

### **IFD 12n07/12-07 Regarding continuing participation in, or possibly hosting, the Inter-Fellowship Forum**

Time was given for committee comments (15 minutes):

- CIFIC understands that this would be their responsibility and would benefit S.L.A.A. if the committee remains active
- We have not participated with regularity and we wonder about the value of participating. Didn't hear much feedback when we participated
- Wonder how our participation would help carry the message. We attended one session a few years ago and found it useful to exchange ideas and have a booth which distributes literature from all S-fellowships. At a professional program there were booths for each fellowship which would be at a minimal cost
- Encourage continuation of this pursuit
- Can allow us to rise above and encourages cooperation
- This is first step in unifying all fellowships, which is needed to keep lines of communication open
- Our primary purpose is to reach out, and this could be a valuable tool to exchange ideas. We can learn from others as we share. Communication is important
- We seem to consider this a competition and we shouldn't associate (for inclusivity and learning what other fellowships have done)
- Our phone meetings include all fellowships, but we often jump fellowships and refer others to their meetings if they would be more appropriate

- We have done much with this group in the past and we need to learn to work together with others
- “Cross-pollination” is healthy and there are many potential members
- Wonder why some have not remained active in the forum
- We can gain much from sharing with other fellowships
- Have attended other meetings and they have been helpful to recovery; we do not have the monopoly for recovery
- The suggestion is made that the attendees not have to pay the expenses
- Would be great to receive information from the Conference to make an educated decision
- Where should the responsibility remain?
- Perhaps this could be a subcommittee or a task force
- We do not have to spend money to learn from them

Time for discussion expired and a space will be available on the first version of 2013 BMIS for a motion.

### **IFD 12n08/12-08 Regarding holding the ABM and IRC in London**

Time was given for committee comments (15 minutes):

- CDC recommends holding this in London
- History from the submitter: Much excitement was generated by suggestion last year. We have spoken to planning committee members along with others. It could be done at a similar cost if held at a retreat center and held in either mid-June, or late-September/October when rates are lower. This could generate more international delegates, which would be beneficial. The fellowship could benefit from having speakers come from US and other countries
- Should try it and TEF could help people attend. We should try different things to see if they work
- Would be a great idea because conventions in UK have been very successful with members attending from all over Europe
- Would allow members/delegates from other countries to attend
- Excited about this concept, especially if cost is similar, but could be extra expensive from west coast
- Allows greater outreach, but would need much more advanced notice to arrange for passports
- Might be impossible for many Intergroups to send a delegate
- Great idea, but could lose American participation as it is often difficult to raise money to send a delegate within the US
- Could exclude delegates with legal issues who might not be able to obtain a passport
- Should think about ways we can do this because this is outside the box. We should look at this as something which is possible and help us carry the message
- Our groups pass a second basket to raise funds
- Could require extra fundraising
- We should work the Steps around this
- Like the idea, we could possibly use video conferencing for more participation
- Many ways are available to raise funds
- Like idea of going outside US
- Winter could be half price
- Could creatively save money using smaller venues
- Need to include the rest of world
- Could seek out large donor from UK
- Would have to do some international fundraising
- Originally thought this would not work

Time expired and there will be a place reserved on the first version of the 2013 BMIS.

**BMIS was completed at 4:35 PM.** The Thursday sessions will include a video presentation and some training sessions. One session has been cancelled for Thursday because finished the BMIS early – will finish at 4:45 PM.

Following announcements, the General Assembly was adjourned at 4:45 PM for a break and dinner. A Meet the Delegates session and an Open microphone talent session was followed by our Live Auction and Raffle.

**Thursday, July 26, 2012 8:00 AM**

**General Assembly – Thursday, July 26, 2012 – 8:00 AM**

Facilitator – Juanita J.; Assistant Facilitator – Gabriel G.; Backup Facilitator – Kelli H.; Time Keeper - Karen S.

There were 30 in attendance for the session and it began with the reading of the 12 Steps in German and the 12 Traditions in German and the Serenity Prayer.

A training session was held around the BRS and the BMIS. Some history was given prior to the session beginning. (This session was not recorded and notes are only highlights))

The BMIS is significantly shorter than it was many years ago. The process has streamlined since years ago. The process is not used to censor people. The current BRS process has evolved through the years. The new process keeps us more accountable. The BRS process was discussed (this information is available in the binder and can be downloaded from the FWS Website). All items, including motions, must be submitted on the proper form. There were no submissions prior to the first deadline this year but 4 finally trickled in after that deadline. Committee member cannot be guided by their personal feelings or prejudices so that no one is left out. This is constantly under revision.

An explanation was given regarding revision, rejection and what is necessary for approval. A suggestion from the floor was made that the deadlines should be extended to give people more time to prepare motions and IFDs. The BRS requires an odd number of members, 3, 5 or 7. Board items may not be rejected from the BMIS. Anyone in the Fellowship may submit an IFD or a motion.

A question was asked regarding whether or not there as a liaison to report back to the sender; a liaison is responsible to do this in a timely manner. It was discussed as to whether there was an auto response for submissions. The CCC will look into this.

Topic for discussion: Why are some committees unpopulated or under populated? Some thoughts were to begin delegate elections earlier and ask delegates to join a Conference committee right away and continue to serve. All members whether delegates or not may serve on a committee. Different committees are organized differently. Perhaps this is a place where people can look for committees which are understaffed. There is a mistaken idea that committees are available for delegates only, but all may serve. Need to look at how many committees can each member can comfortably serve with. Doing service work helps us stay sober. Need to recruit people from Intergroup.

Following announcements, the General Assembly was adjourned at 9:30 AM for a break, followed by Conference Committee Meetings and lunch. Business resumed at 2:15 PM

**General Assembly – Thursday, July 26, 2012 – 2:15 PM**

Facilitator – Andrew H.; Assistant Facilitator – Tom F.; Backup Facilitator – Tom B.; Time Keeper – Jonathan K.

There were 34 members present.

It was announced that the fundraiser raised \$264 from raffle ticket sales, \$1782 from the auctions (silent and live), and \$3000 from contributions for a grand total of \$5046.

Instructions were given as to what should happen during the 3<sup>rd</sup> committee meeting sessions, which are included in Appendix C, including establishing a roster (Appendix D), setting up budget, possibly electing a chair and vice chair (if desired), setting up projects for the year, establishing a budget (Appendix E), identifying a meeting schedule and setting up a time for first meeting.

At the closing session each committee chair will give a report regarding meeting schedule, projects and budget projection. The roster and budget requests should be turned in during the final chair's meeting.

Question regarding making a budget – What types of things can we ask for in the budget? A budget will be assigned according to requests; we recommend any expenses which you feel are necessary for the committee to function.

Various ideas were given by Conference members regarding what they do after the ABM.

20 minutes was allotted for discussion:

- In order to attract additional members to Conference committees, it would be helpful to send a report to the FWS Newsletter (this could be the same report presented to the bi-monthly chair's call). There is a link on the website to submit reports and the next deadline is August 12. Information can also be submitted through the Call Squad.
- Last year we submitted a budget request to make flyers for distribution. If you attach the receipt to the reimbursement form, you will receive a check for reimbursement.
- The chair's responsibilities are described in Appendix H.
- On occasion it is necessary to conduct a conflict resolution; this process is outlined in the CSM in Appendix H.
- In order to attract additional members to Conference committees, it would be helpful to send a report to the FWS Newsletter.
- Members were reminded to not become overwhelmed following the ABM; use the tools described in chapter 4 (page 32) of the CSM. It is also advisable to use the phone numbers which will be provided to call someone if you feel overwhelmed. Asking others for help can help make things easier. Share the information regarding what happened at the ABM with your Intergroup and local groups.
- A signup sheet will be provided for the FWS Newsletter.
- Service is a great source of recovery and even greater when we push ourselves beyond our comfort level which allows us to grow. No one judges us for our mistakes. Committee work is a hidden blessing; all you have to do is show up and bring the same tools you use in meetings. It will reflect you and what you should bring to the committee.
- Use your BOT liaison for questions or difficulties and have an agenda.
- We no longer produce the hard copy of the contact information, but distribute this list by email to those who have signed the confidentiality form. If you want to contact someone on a committee directly, you could go through the committee chair. For success, take on specific tasks so as to not be overwhelmed and get someone locally to partner with you in your work and work as a team.
- Appendix H has additional information which are helpful for the committees.

Discussion of 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition and fundraising (20 minutes):

- Perhaps we could request a suggested minimum donation
- A second pass of the basket can be very effective for specific purpose
- Reminder of the 60/40 pamphlet, and remind members that a dollar is not enough anymore
- Some Intergroups have workshops and talent shows to raise money
- Recovery workshops and various get-togethers
- Intergroup chairs could watch contributions coming from the groups and remind groups who are not giving
- Perhaps it would be helpful to have a resource available for local treasurers
- Set up a recovery convention which would attract people and make it a fundraiser
- Talent shows, picnics, parties and auctions are helpful in many areas
- Although we have no dues or fees, we do still have expenses
- We should remind groups what the office does
- Would be helpful to have a resource available to tell others how some of these ideas have worked
- Attractive events seem to draw in funds
- It would be good to have a roundtable lunch to discuss fundraising
- We seem to have some increase during special contribution months
- Need a committee to deal with financial planning
- CFC is responsible for fundraising; needed guidance regarding maximum contributions from individuals or groups. \$12,000 is the annual individual contributions limit; only prudent reserve fund can receive

ear-marked donations which are not capped (this is described in the 60/40); 97% of funds come from 3% of the membership

- There is a potential for larger donations if we are willing to receive them
- Isn't saving money the same as raising money?
- Limits are placed to keep from undue influence from individuals

Time was taken for announcements - After a short break, business resumed.

### **General Assembly – Thursday, July 26, 2012 – 3:45 PM – BOT Nominees – Tradition 10**

Facilitator – Andrew H.; Assistant Facilitator –Gabriel G.; Backup Facilitator – Mike J.; Time keeper – Sara S.

There were 38 members present and began with the Serenity Prayer.

The candidates were given 3 minutes each to tell us a little about themselves and what service means to them.

**Susan G.** – “Service is sobering. Doing service has kept me sober. I started with sponsorship, which taught me about showing up and giving back what has been freely given to me. Sponsorship is ‘follow-the-leader’ all the way down the line. Follow good examples in service. I began doing service at S.L.A.A. Online moving through various offices. Attended my first ABM last year and became involved in Conference committees. I have served on various Conference committees as a member, then chair, and later the BFOC.”

**Rick B.** – “After getting sober, my first opportunity for service was as a volunteer at an ABM, which was being held in my area. I was excited to be able to have dinner with the BOT and the local planning committee. I learned that Intergroup is important. Later, I became an Intergroup rep and Intergroup chair. My first ABM was in 2010 and I was impressed with what I saw. I became interested in restarting an inactive committee. I became chair of the committee and asked for help. In 2011, I was elected chair of the newly formed Conference Concepts Adaptation Committee and transitioned into the BGNC as a non-BOT member. I knew I had to do something different from what I did in my addiction, so these things appealed to me. I kept hearing the 5 S's and I depend on them and talk about them regularly. This has allowed me to see things about myself that I didn't recognize. I have enjoyed doing service because it gets me out of my comfort zone.”

**Steve B.** – “I see service in many ways, from the home group to the BOT. I have to do service to stay sober, by attending meetings and sponsorship. I became involved with Intergroup service. When I attended my first Intergroup meeting to become involved, no one was there and I wondered what I had to do in order to do service. I became involved with literature development, as suggested by my sponsor. I didn't see anything about service in the pamphlet and was able to get something added on service. By serving, I am indirectly serving others and this keeps me sober. The most important realization was that I am not alone and always wear a blue bracelet to remind me. I continue to wear it to continue to remind myself that I have a responsibility to those coming behind me.”

**Tom B.** – “I have always had a good bit of relational trauma, which has hindered me in serving because the trauma always got in the way. Service has helped me overcome the trauma. I knew several people at my first meeting and immediately got a sponsor and began doing service. I have met people who exude recovery in their service. My first ABM showed me I am part of a community. I got a service sponsor who has guided me in finding service to be healing. I am now aware of when I am trying to manipulate someone.”

### **Sharing on Tradition 10:**

**Susan G.** – “Relate to this Tradition could relate to celebrities in my addiction. Since I have had marriage issues, I imagine going public about a friendship and we would go on TV to talk about marriage and healthy relationships, and that people should take classes prior to marriage. If I were to go public about being a member of S.L.A.A., and campaigning for these classes all over the world, this would create controversy because of my previous marriages, and my membership in S.L.A.A. I push these classes and require people to join committees to talk about healthy relationships, read books about healthy relationships, and even take a



test prior to marriage. We would have to match service responsibilities to work this way. If I were to suggest this as a motion there would be many people lining up to speak pro and con on this issue and it would cause controversy. What would people think if I were to go public with these ideas? Would anyone come to the program? We need to stay away from controversy and outside issues.”

**Rick B.** – “I began to understand the Traditions as I went through the Concepts and the Steps. There are similarities among all of these. The essence of Traditions is unity. This Tradition is about neutrality. Steps help keep us spiritually committed, and Traditions keep meetings spiritual. It would have to cause people to stay in recovery and unity. It doesn’t matter who we are or where we came from, our primary purpose is to help others get better. This is a check on ourselves to make sure we get sober and stay sober. It doesn’t matter who I am or who anyone else may be. The only issue is my addiction. How can we share our experience, strength and hope without outside opinions? This helps us help other addicts. It keeps us from having differing ideas and messages. The most important thing is sharing our story and not opinions, which helps to remind us that ehse things are most important.”

**Steve B.** – “We have to look it as a part of a whole; to see how it works and seek unity. We want others to get sober and not change the world. We are not here for attention; we are here to get sober. We don’t want to chase people away with opinions and beliefs. Follow the example from AA of not becoming involved in outside issues. Sex is controversial by its very nature. Dare not speak about controversial sexual issues, as these issues are easy to find. We need to stay in our own recovery and not in other people’s business. Focus on ourselves.”

**Tom B.** – “I love the Traditions. Every Tradition has a spiritual lesson; this one is to be who we are. The lesson is to stay away from outside issues. We need to be where we are. The newcomer uses transference because they cannot understand the issues and want it to apply to others. It keeps us from being present. To bring in outside issues would bring transference. The danger is people ask ‘Why am I here?’, although we may have opinions on issues or have a vested interest in. We cannot bring the issue to the program or we are not keeping our side of the street clean. We lose our seat when we become involved in controversy.

**Questions and Answers:** (each was given 1 minute to respond)

**Q- Other than experience, what do you rely on for Tradition Information since we do not have our own 12 & 12?**

**Susan G.** - “I relied heavily on AA 12&12. I am happy to know we are working on our own. I had a consultation with experienced members and sponsors and listen attentively. Glad we have a Steps and Traditions committee.”

**Rick B.** - “I learned the Traditions in another Fellowship. I slowly learned about them as I gained experience and did service, and learned from the experience of others. I get to practice the Steps and Traditions in my recovery.”

**Steve B.** – “I am a researcher because of my insecurity and have read many books to learn about the thinking behind and of history of the Traditions. I read about AA history. It is important to learn about doing service.”

**Tom B.** – “I referenced Traditions working with *the Journal*. I kept researching the Traditions. Traditions should solve conflicts. I have worked Traditions in another Fellowship, which has been informative. I love traditions and enjoy hearing and learning from them.”

**Q-What is your sobriety date? Do you sponsor, and if so, how many people do you sponsor? How many meetings do you attend weekly?**

**Susan G.** - “I have been sober since 4/18/06 and attend 3 or 4 meetings a week. I sponsor 13 women who have been through the Steps and am now sponsoring and doing service. I have a sponsor.”

**Rick B.** - "Sobriety date is 12/30/08 and I sponsor 3 people in this program and 2 in another. I attend 3 or 4 S.L.A.A. meetings and 2 in another program. I have a sponsor."

**Steve B.** - "I attend at least 3 S.L.A.A. meetings a week and 4 in another fellowship. I have a sponsor but have changed sponsors. I actively sponsor five people. I have been sober since 7/3/07 on first bottom line and added all others in 11/07."

**Tom B.** - "I have been sober since 7/27/08. It took over a year to work on bottom lines. I have a sponsor and have a service sponsor. I sponsor 2 in this program and 2 in another fellowship, and attend 2 S.L.A.A. meetings and 4 other meetings."

**Q. What do you feel are the best qualities you bring to the BOT?**

**Susan G.** - "My best quality is being organized and structured due to my work experience. This is important because this is the fiduciary arm of S.L.A.A. I work well with others when working together as a team and focus on our primary purpose: to reach out. This is primary in my mind."

**Rick B.** - "Commitment to service. I took 5 S's to heart and know I can't keep it unless I give it away. People reached out to me and lifted me up, and Intergroup saved my life and made me realize it is worth living. I'll do what I can to help another."

**Steve B.** - "Tough question. I'm honestly not sure what my best quality is. When I came into service, I was told to treat it as a learning experience and take everything as a lesson. My willingness to learn and focus on my character defects is my best quality. I hope to become humble."

**Tom B.** - "I have vision, listen to people and come up with ideas. I have to let go of outcomes and listen to others. Identifying with people and knowing that there is a healthy spiritual solution. If we listen carefully to our Higher Power we can get through anything. Patience with tedious work and letting go."

**Q-What do you see is your role as a board member in relation to the rest of the Fellowship? What do you perceive is the difference between board-level service as compared to other responsibilities not at the Board level?**

**Susan G.** - "BOT is the fiduciary arm of the Fellowship, including overseeing the office, taking care of the inner workings and all legal matters. Others are the heart of the Fellowship; making sure the message is being carried and letting the BOT know what we need in order to carry the message."

**Rick B.** - "Been many things in this Fellowship; all have been as a trusted servant to those in local meetings and in my area. We are trusted servants to the entire Fellowship and to the world. Our duty is to do our best for everyone. It is a great responsibility and we have to be careful and diligent. The BOT is the business end of the Fellowship and we need to make sure the business aspects are taken care of and the Traditions are taken care of."

**Steve B.** - "In some ways there is no difference. We serve others and stay sober. Many of the duties of the BOT can be boring. I use skills which I have in order to keep the operation running, but still have opportunities to help others. The members are the heart."

**Tom B.** - "Becoming the marketing director of *the Journal* gave me a perspective of events. Being on the BOT is similar. Focal diversity because of the amount of the focus. We move from one to another quickly, and focus on administrative duties. Corporate executives also serve on BOT due to lack of available members."

**Q-You have been serving for a while. What do you see is the greatest challenge and how do you hope to address it?**

**Susan G.** - "The biggest challenge is financial. As a Fellowship, we need to grow and get the message out. We need more literature and more finances. We are doing OK, but we are treading water. We need more ideas on fundraising."

**Rick B.** - "Growing the Fellowship in literature and outreach. I am grateful to serve now after seeing what it has taken to make us stable. We need to be bigger, better and focused toward the future instead of looking back. More 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition is needed for outreach."

**Steve B.** - "We need to build a culture of service and need to expect those we sponsor to do service and also do service ourselves. We have a huge turnover and go back to other programs. We need to emphasize service to become a better people and become more sober."

**Tom B.** - "Fair and equal representation at Conference and on the BOT. People need to know about us. There are lots of ideas to make us thrive. We need to reach the untreated addict, reconciling and encouraging the fellowship. This is the responsibility of the BOT."

Members were encouraged to ask additional questions one on one and we closed with the Serenity prayer to return to our focus.

Following announcements, the General Assembly was adjourned at 4:45 PM for a break and dinner to be followed by a bonfire meeting on the beach at 7:00 PM.

**Friday, July 27, 2012 8:00 AM**

**General Assembly – Friday, July 27, 2012 – 8:00 AM - BOT Elections**

Facilitator –Jack S.; Assistant Facilitator – Andrew H.; Backup Facilitator –Gabriel G.; Dave S. – Time Keeper

There were 38 of 39 members present. The meeting began with the Serenity Prayer and the reading of the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions.

The doors were secured for the voting process and will remain secured until the votes have been counted and the results announced. There was an explanation of the ballot and the voting process given by the BGNC chair. The counting process was also explained along with the names of those participating in the process. Time was allowed for questions relating to the voting process. The ballots were distributed by the vote tabulators, collected and counted to make sure all 38 were turned in. Once the count was verified, the vote counters left to count the ballots.

Tom F., assisted by Rita H., showed a video presentation of the office in San Antonio. This video was taken at the office to show the video inventory as a record for insurance purposes. This presentation was followed by a question and answer session about the office.

**Question – Could the staff become members of S.L.A.A.?**

It is possible if they would decide they qualified. We looked for a member and there was only 1 of 9 applicants who was a member.

**May we now use the Trademark designation instead of the Service mark designation?**

There are 2 logos; one is registered and the other is not. A former Copyright subcommittee member helped us to re-register the logo since the registration had lapsed. The other logo was designed by our webmaster that turned over the ownership to the Fellowship. We decided to use the "SM" designation on the coin logo. We are free to use these logos but need to have appropriate disclaimers. More information will be forthcoming.

**Will the first 10 Years of the Journal be reprinted?**

These are sitting there because they have not sold and are from the original printing. We do have digital copies of the Journals.

**Are we thinking of downsizing our space?**

After speaking with the owners and managers as well as our attorney, we cannot do this at the present time.

**I volunteered in the office. Are there projects that people can do, or are there ways we can be involved in some sort of fundraising?**

Since we have 2 staff members along with the mailroom associate we haven't actively recruited volunteers. During office hours or when anyone from the BOT is present people may come and volunteer. We do some work as we go instead of printing in advance. We can always use truly bilingual people.

**Does Rita as Office Supervisor commute to the office?**

Most work is done electronically or by phone and she has made 9 trips to the office. Because we are more electronic, we need fewer volunteers.

**How often does the BOT go to San Antonio and is it necessary?**

We needed to be there several times during the year (last year, about once every 6 weeks, someone was there). We would like to decrease this necessity, but this would require a general manager who could be there to do this work. It is important that BOT members go to the office to see what is actually happening.

**If I could stop by the office could I take pictures or make a video to take back to my country so that members could see the office?**

Just let us know and we can arrange it.

**What is being done with the boxes of history? How safe are they? Should we store these off site to protect them?**

Nothing at the moment. These materials came from Boston and have been sitting there for all these years. This is on the agenda and this possibility can be forthcoming at some future date.

**Could we download this video to show to Intergroups?**

This will be on the BOT agenda.

**Since our documents are so important, why have they not been moved offsite?**

Haven't had time, staff or resources to do this. Many of these things do not need to be kept.

**Comment:** The office was in complete disarray. I believe that the progress is amazing. I have faith that things will continue to improve.

The vote counters returned and there was a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

The results of the election were announced:

**Confirmed were Rick B., Tom B. and Susan G.**

**Elected to a full 3 year term was Steve B.**

The results will be secured at the office.

Recognition was given to the BOT members for significant service in stabilizing the office and to the member who took care of the hospitality suite. Members were reminded that there will be a group picture taken (which will go to the office) and were also reminded of checkout time and that the desk would hold the luggage.

The CDC gave a presentation on a questionnaire which they distributed to make the members aware of the 17 question survey.

It was announced that the onsite office has been closed and is being packed up to ship back to San Antonio. The office staff was again recognized and thanked for their hard work.

Chairs were reminded of their reports which are to be made at the final General Assembly session.

A mock IFD on “self-care after leaving the ABM” was conducted:

- I come down and it is like a spiritual hangover and I call people to let them know what is happening
- Spend time with my dog
- Get to a meeting as soon as possible
- Work at getting a service sponsor to help process what has been happening at the ABM
- Create recovery partners to speak with
- Needed to write a recovery plan while here and have been following it – calling my sponsor and especially newcomer sponsee I have now, don't start service work right away, eat with regularity, and so on
- I will swap my name tag for a generic name tag so that I remember that I am in a fragile state and take care of myself
- Take excitement and share it with someone in the program and be present with spouse
- Talk about the process prior to leaving, there is stress and I have to check it in
- Don't overdo it when talking about the ABM, look for people we can talk with
- Check in with former delegates and others
- Don't hide in apartment and get to a meeting, call people

After announcements, the General Assembly adjourned at 9:30 AM for a break, Conference Committee Meetings and lunch. The final general assembly resumed at 2:15 PM

**General Assembly – Friday, July 27, 2012 – 2:15 PM**

Facilitator – Jack S.; Assistant Facilitator – Tom F.; Backup Facilitator –Karen S.; Time Keeper – Olin J.; Vote Counters – Conrad G. and Michael J.

There were 36 members present for this meeting.

The CCC requests that pictures of members taken without permission be deleted and destroyed. Pictures should not be posted in the public media or go further than the F.W.S. archives.

The BOT Chair, Tom F., announced the BOT Liaisons to Conference Committees:

CAC – Rita H.  
CBC – (inactive) Rick B.  
CCC – Tom F.  
CCAC – Rick B.  
CDC – Tom B.  
CFC – Steve B.  
CHRC – Susan G.  
CIFC – Rick B.  
CICC – (inactive) Rita H.  
CIC- Steve B.  
CJC – Tom B.  
CLC – Susan G.  
CMRBOTC – Steve B.  
CMRC – Tom B.  
CPOC – Rick B.  
CPIC – Tom B.  
CSC – Susan G.  
CSPC – Susan G.  
CSTC – Tom F.  
CTC – Steve B.

**Board Committee Reports:**

BFOC- Steve B. (Chair) – Will be beginning second year and provided a written report from the past year in the binder.

BGNC- Rick B. (Chair) – Expressed gratitude for the volunteers who helped with the election process this year; will be working on recruitment and manuals and guidelines for the BOT.

BPRC- Susan G. (Chair) – Newly appointed and looks forward to serving in the coming year.

**Committee reports:**

CAC – (Chair) Alex K. – Meet on 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 2:00 Eastern time; projects include Anorexia 4-5-6-7, working on the draft. In need of anorexia stories for this volume; want to figure out way to make anorexia more inclusive; will be looking at core documents to suggest modifications; have many in Google groups and need to organize these as well as work on our response team to make sure that we can provide information.

CBC- inactive

CCAC – (Chair) Garry K. – Will continue for the foreseeable future and will have a reorganizational meeting on August 19.

CCC- (Chair) Jack S. – Spent time planning filler for extra time this week; created agenda. Look at index of motions to see if we can create an electronic version; looking at deadlines for BMIS and ABM; looking at how we can better use electronic media for meetings and gain more international participation; Conference members list, photos taken at ABM.

CDC- (Chair) Anke W. – 7 members with goal of refining the diversity statement for a motion into clearer language to make it more understandable; put survey questions out to the international community to discover their feelings around diversity; will meet on Sept. 9.

CFC- (Chair) Karen S. – 5 members currently; will meet on Aug. 16 at 5:30 Pacific time; first project will be the budget requests; should be turned in by end of ABM or fill out electronically for submission; talking about fundraising.

CHRC- (Chair) Olin J. – Meets first Saturday at 9:30 Pacific time; changed mission statement by one word; main project will be on Tools for Healthy Relationships; asked for \$150.

CIFC- (Chair) Jay G. – Have 3 members; to participate in IFF meeting in New Orleans; will be revising mission statement; asked for \$685 for expenses to travel to the Conference; meet 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 11:30 Eastern time.

CICC – inactive

CIC- (Chair) Juanita J. – Would like to change name to Conference Online Outreach Committee; meet 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 4:30 Eastern; have 5 members and a friend; establish a Facebook page to act as a gateway for screening potential members; work to recruit on line contacts for pages; looking into getting into apps.

CJC- (Chair) Andrew K. – 12 members; projects include archival inventory of past Journals, , making past issues available electronically and in e-format, will continue outreach work to gain new subscribers or have people sponsor subscriptions; possibility of Journal calendar and another international issue; next meeting August 4 at 3:00 Pacific time; total budget requests \$1850.

CLC- (Chair) David B. – Elect chairs at March meetings; 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday 10:30 Eastern time; writing group liaison subcommittee meets on first Saturday at 12:00 Eastern; projects 12 & 12, beginning a stories book, pamphlet on pressure relief group, step workbook, 10 members.

CMRBOTC- (Interim Chair) Ron G. – Reactivating this year; read mission statement; 9 people attended meetings; haven't set meeting time.

CMRC- (Chair) Allen Y. – Changed mission statement; asked that members fill out survey; first meeting August 9, survey is project; 5 members; make pamphlet from Puget Sound Intergroup.

CPOC- (Chair) Garry K. – Continue with inmate outreach and writing the 12 Steps in Simple English; new outreach to women inmates with new women's subcommittee; next meeting September 1 at 7:30 PM Eastern time; budget request \$1500.

CPIC- (Chair) Mark C. – Working on Do's list, kit with links to documents, cover letters along with links to other websites, video training and public video along with other items and uploading to website; meet on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 2:00 Pacific.

CSC- (Chair) Conrad G. – First meeting will be August 4 at 11:00 Pacific time; read mission statement; will be co-writing a service sponsorship pamphlet with CSPC; will look at other ways to promote activity within the fellowship. 4 members; budget request of \$120.

CSPC-(Chair) Linda W. – 13 members; projects; look at another telemeeting and some workshops; work with long standing members; working on some literature on various types of sponsorship and working on sponsorship workbook; will liaison with CLC; budget request \$300

CSTC- (Chair) Christine L. – Will continue to respond to questions; first meeting August 26 at 4:00 Eastern to establish priorities for the year; budget request \$350.

CTC- (Chair) Moses C.- (no report)

**Motion to confirm the 20 Conference Committees** with 30 seconds of silence prior.

**Vote was 36-0-0**

**Motion passes**

The BOT Chair announced that the 2013 ABC/M will be held in San Antonio. Bids for the 2014 and 2015 ABC/M and IRC are invited with a deadline November 1, 2012.

The meeting ended with announcements.

Gratitude was expressed by the CCC chair and the ABM recordkeeper for the opportunity to serve and the ABM closed at 3:15 PM with the Serenity Prayer.

Following a short break there was a BOT Meeting and a Conference Chairs Meeting.