

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

2013 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes

August 6-9, 2013

Airport Hilton
San Antonio, Texas

Conference Theme: The 11th Tradition; “Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, TV, film and other public media. We need guard with special care the anonymity of all fellow S.L.A.A. members.”

Abbreviations you need to know:

ABC/M.....Annual Business Conference/Meeting
ARSAgenda Review Subcommittee
BPRC.....Board Public Relations Committee
BFOC.....Board Governance and Nominating Committee
BOT.....Board of Trustees
CSMConference Service Manual
HPHigher Power
IFDIssue for Discussion
IRCInternational Recovery Convention

Conference Committees

CAC.....Conference Anorexia Committee
CBC.....Conference By-Laws Committee
CCAC.....Conference Concepts Adaptation Committee
CCC.....Conference Charter Committee
CDC.....Conference Diversity Committee
CFCConference Finance Committee
CHRC.....Conference Healthy Relationships Committee
CIFCConference InterFellowship Committee
CICCConference Intergroup Communication Committee
CICConference Internet Committee
CJC.....Conference Journal Committee
CLCConference Literature Committee
CMRBOTC.....Conference Member Relations to the Board / F.W.S. Committee
CMRC.....Conference Member Retention Committee
CPICConference Public Information Committee
CPOCConference Prison Outreach Committee
CSCConference Service Committee
CSPCConference Sponsorship Committee
CSTCConference Steps and Traditions Committee
CTCConference Translation Committee

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Tuesday, August 6, 2013

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

General Assembly; Tuesday, August 6, 2013 – 1:00 P.M.

Facilitator – Jack S.; Assistant Facilitator – Tom F.; Backup Facilitator – Roger R; Record Keeper for this ABM – Andrew K.; Timekeeper – Conrad G.

The meeting began with 37 of 38 voting members present (quorum is thirty). The session opened with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Reading of the 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, and 12 Concepts. Introductions of all individuals present. Andrew H., Gabriel G. and Jack S. are CCC members present. The CCC Chair read the policy regarding photographs at the ABM, asking that no photos or videos be taken at the ABM. The CCC Chair gave information regarding the ABM Binders and the schedule for the General Assemblies and for Conference Committee sessions. Tom F. reviewed the content of the supplemental packet. The CCC Chair gave instruction to other facilitators on how to begin each session. The CCC Chair let delegates know about voting procedures for the Agenda.

Items for the Agenda must be submitted prior to 7:00 P.M, Tuesday, August 6th, 2013. The BOT elections will be 8:00 A.M. on Friday, August 9th, 2013. People must be in the room by 8:00 A.M, at which time the doors will be locked, until after votes are counted. Conference Committees will not all meet three days/times at this ABM. Discussion time for an IFD is determined by the Facilitator. Discussed suggested activities for Conference Committees when meeting at the ABM. The procedure for giving Committee reports was described. A “Meet the Delegates” session will take place on Wednesday evening, to be followed by the auction. Thursday evening there will be a Getting Current meeting hosted by the San Antonio Intergroup. The F.W.S. Office General Manager gave housekeeping details regarding meals, bathrooms, the store, auction items, fliers on the back table, hospitality room, and the location of conference committee meetings.

The session ended with a 15 minute break.

Getting to Know the BOT/F.W.S.; Tuesday, August 6, 2013 – 2:15 P.M.

Facilitator – Roger R.; Assistant Facilitator - Andrew H.; Backup Facilitator – Conrad G.

Each BOT member and office staff member explained his/her duties. Tom F. is the BOT Chair and this is his sixth ABM. He has been serving on the BOT since June of 2009. Tom B. has been in the program for five years. He applied for a Board appointment and was confirmed last year at the ABM. He will be stepping down from the Board after this ABM so he can focus on school. Steve B. is from the South Florida area. He was then appointed and confirmed to the BOT and chairs the BFOC and the Copyright and Translation Subcommittee. Rick B. came into the program on December 23rd, 2008. Between 2011 and 2012, he was appointed to the BOT and was confirmed last year. He is chair of the BGNC. Susan G. came to S.L.A.A. for the first time in 1991. She came back twelve years later. She got involved with the CSC then the BFOC as a non-board member. She said her Higher Power was calling her for more service. Rita H. came into the program in January 2000. She is from Montreal, Quebec, Canada. In March of 2008 she became a Board member. She became Board Chair and then the Supervisor to the F.W.S. Office. She became a volunteer General Manager over the last two and a half years.

Tom F. spoke about Office staff. The Fellowship has a graphic artist and an IT consultant. Office staff were recognized for their commitment. Hector is our mailroom associate. Lisa McGrath is the

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General Manager. Pamela is the bookkeeper. She works on Mondays and Fridays. Christina is our Office Assistant. Beth S. is the S.L.A.A. Webmaster.

Questions / Comments from the floor:

- Thank you to Board members and special thank you to outgoing Board members.
- What are the current hours of the Office? The office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. (CST)
- "Sex addiction," when Googled, does not bring up S.L.A.A. for several pages. Can this be improved? It depends on who is Googling it. Google has made some changes to the way they rate search words. The Webmaster is looking into Search Engine Optimization.
- If you type S.L.A.A. and then a city, one of the first links is from a doctor saying that our program doesn't work.
- Print Literature Form says to contact F.W.S. for shipping over \$100. One individual ordered pamphlets that cost \$80 for shipping to Los Angeles. He wondered why it cost so much. When there is a large order, it takes time to place the order. There is a small percentage fee for handling attached to shipping only (percentage of shipping fee, not including cost of items). The Office never charges more than 5% of shipping fee. This may have been an error and this individual should contact the Office.
- Has there been any further progress on the legal action taken regarding Office staff that was terminated? It took two years to establish the criteria to terminate the former office General Manager. The Texas Workforce Commission upheld that decision. Afterward, we found irregularities in our accounting. An accountant and attorneys were consulted. F.W.S. filed a criminal complaint with the San Antonio Police Department. They have been very slow to respond. They contacted us in October of last year and April of this year. Rita H. has been in contact with a detective and the bank in order to provide evidence. There was a year's worth of files regarding finances that were destroyed. Donations were always deposited directly into the F.W.S. bank account. This was a misappropriation of funds, separate from donations.
- Are there any time limitations on pursuing this action? Is there a statute of limitations? Also with Rita stepping down, how will matters transfer over? There is plenty of time left on the statute of limitations, which is about seven years. The charge is intention of white collar fraud. It is currently in the hands of the San Antonio detectives. Will need to make former Board members and Office Supervisors available as needed by SAPD.
- Because we were chartered in Massachusetts, are there any Massachusetts laws that were violated? If so, will prosecution be pursued? The General Manager did not work for the Fellowship until after the move to Texas and did not have access to funds from prior to that time.
- Who decides the prices of items sold by the Office? BFOC.
- Has anything been done to accommodate other countries to reduce costs? Shipping alone is very expensive. With Mexico, Spanish literature is free. We are currently looking at how international literature is handled. Things also get lost (left on doorstep and disappears or items are never delivered). Haven't had any requests from any countries that are struggling with the cost. For countries that are under served, we want to promote the literature (like in Mexico, where it is being given for free).

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- Are they not requesting it because they don't know they can do so? Is there any encouragement on our website to ask for help? No, there is not a place on the website for this. There is a general contact place on the website to contact the Office and make any kind of request. The Board and the Store would consider such a request.
- Member tried to get Portuguese literature and it was very difficult. He contacted F.W.S. and was directed to Brazil. He got an e-mail back from Brazil, but felt they were aloof and he was afraid to send money. Translations occur all over the world and are contracted with F.W.S. F.W.S. has no control over the Brazilian Intergroup, but F.W.S. can help with communication with them.
- Has there been a decrease in sales due to the increase in e-literature? None so far. More details will follow in another session. Sales have been a little better this year. Our graphic artist is helping put all our pamphlets into InDesign format. He is also helping put our Basic Text into e-book format. It has to stay in the exact format so that all pages numbers are the same. We also have to look at how we protect our copyright, whether we publish it ourselves, along with many other concerns.
- The Greater Delaware Valley Intergroup was asked by the Northern Virginia/DC Metro Intergroup to take them on. Is there any guidance in how to run an Intergroup? Is there anything to help Intergroups stay alive and survive? The Seventh Tradition covers helping groups survive. Each group is autonomous. The seven core documents are guides. The Concepts help as well. There is a group called the Call Squad which reaches out four or five times a year to Intergroups by phone and by e-mail. The BPRC has been trying to create a process to involve groups that are off of our radar. The CICC is currently inactive. Re-activating this committee could be helpful. If there are Intergroups represented here at the ABM that are strong, write down what works for you and send it to the CICC, the CSC or the CMRC. There are three different starter kits. The super group starter kit is \$37 for an over \$80 value. There is also an anorexia group starter kit and an Intergroup starter kit.
- Is there someone who monitors who comes in the room during the General Assemblies? The General Manager does this.

The session ended with general announcements and a 15 minute break.

BOT Financial Report; Tuesday, August 6, 2013 – 3:45 P.M.

Facilitator – Roger R.; Assistant Facilitator – Andrew H.; Backup Facilitator – Conrad G.

Steve B., BFOC chair and treasurer gave the BOT Financial Report. The BFOC meets twice a month. Once a month they go over the financial statements for the preceding month. Steve reviews the bank accounts on a weekly basis. Added check and balance is that the BOT chair also has access to the bank accounts. Pamela has no financial authority as she is the one who keeps the books. Steve introduced Mollie Cullinane, our attorney. Mollie is a non-profit specialist. Mollie introduced herself and spoke briefly. Her organization works exclusively with non-profit organizations. She has done this work for twelve years. She is headquartered in Austin, Texas.

Steve continued discussing financial information with a Power Point presentation. Steve encouraged everyone to subscribe to the F.W.S. newsletter as the financial information is regularly published there. The BFOC goes over the quarterly statements, approves them and then provides them to the BOT. Once approved, they are published on a quarterly basis. Steve stated he would make the whole Power Point presentation available at the end of the ABM in printed form.

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The role of F.W.S. is to facilitate “your” job of carrying the message to the addict who still suffers. They do this by publishing literature and filling orders, managing the website, answering calls, helping people find meetings, general info on the Fellowship and helping the BOT and CCC arrange the ABC/M. They also protect the copyright and logos of S.L.A.A. through their subcommittee, the CTS. They make recommendations that go to BFOC and eventually to the BOT. Contracts exist with translating countries who translate literature on their own. Our copyrights are our most important financial aspect. F.W.S. is the owner of the copyright itself. Income comes from two sources. The first source is donations. This accounts for about 40% of income. About 60% comes from literature. When employee expenses are subtracted, it may be closer to 50/50. Both sources are equally important. The Fiscal Year begins on October 1st and runs in three months quarters. This was decided on as it follows the ABM which is where policy is decided that helps to form the budget for future years.

Steve reviewed two different kinds of financial reports. One is the Balance Sheet, also known as the statement of Position. This is a snapshot of our financial condition at any one given moment. The other one is the Profit and Loss statement, also known as the Statement of Activity. That is the detail of money that comes in and money that goes out. This keeps track of what everything costs us and how much money we are bringing in. Steve showed the balance sheet. It details our current liquid assets. There are three bank accounts. There is a special account used for the ABM. The main account is the checking account. There is also a general operating account and a prudent reserve fund. As of June 30th, when this balance sheet was run, there was about \$242,000 in the bank accounts. The number is high because as of that date, we started collecting money for the ABM. This money will go out quickly as we pay for ABM expenses. There are not many hard assets other than the inventory of \$50,000, which includes books and chips. We don't run any debt spending. We pay for things as we incur it. We have to pay for rent, upkeep of copying machine and employee expenses. The total liability and equity runs around \$300,000 - \$350,000. The prudent reserve account is in a federal short-term bonds account. \$10,000 was repaid into the prudent reserve recently. For a while there was the need to take money out of the prudent reserve on a quarterly basis after the termination of Office staff.

Steve showed a comparison of where we are this year to where we were last year. The net amount of cash on hand was pretty much the same. The prudent reserve is higher. It was \$120,000 last year and is \$160,000 this year. There is not as much money in the general operating account this year. The \$75,000 we had in June includes money that was paid for the ABM which will go out to pay those expenses. We also have more inventory than we did last year. When this is taken into account, we are doing a little better this year than last year. Steve next reviewed the profit and loss report. Contribution income through the first three quarters of the 2012-2013 FY is about \$86,000 in donations. Merchandise income is a much larger figure, in the \$168,000 range. The final number of income in the last nine months was \$241,000. This represents the income after taking out the cost of goods sold.

Contracting services include our Bookkeeper, Webmaster and all of our Office employees. There is about \$87,000-88,000 in contract services. There is a payroll expense for the first time in a number of years that are our employees versus being employed through a temp agency. There is a net income of \$63,000. A comparison was shown of profit and loss next to our annual figures. We are doing close to the same as last year on contribution income. There was \$82,00 last year and \$85,700 this year. All of our income minus cost of goods is up about \$6,000. Our employee expenses and contract expenses are higher, because we have more staff.

The donation numbers show that last year there was about \$34,000 in the first three quarters from groups and this year is about \$35,000. We are getting a little less money from individuals, but a

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little more from groups. Reviewed the cost of goods. It looks like the cost of goods was a little less last year than this year. The main reason for this is that we have more inventory. The budget for 2012-2013 is included in the ABM binder. The budget is a strategic planning tool that shows where our money is coming from and where it is going. Conference committees can get their own budgets. This must be submitted at the ABM so they can allocate funds. The CFC allocates money to committees.

Questions from the floor:

- How does a cash basis income statement work versus an accrual basis balance sheet? Normally an enterprise would buy inventory that would not show as an expense until it was sold. The presentation shows that the cost of goods is up because we've bought something.
- When stating that this is run on an accrual basis, does this mean it is expensed but it is still being shown as an asset? Yes. The decision was made based on the recommendations of our accountant based on our size and the way we operate.
- Are we keeping two general ledgers? No.
- If the P and L is on a cash basis, you would recognize the cost of goods when you buy the inventory. If the P and L was done on an accrual basis, that would work. An accrual basis is the "perfect world," if all bills were paid right then and all money that things were invoiced for came in. The cash basis is what actually came in. An accrual on a balance sheet shows what you have in inventory and what you have in the bank. You take your assets, liabilities and equity and see what you are worth today.
- Are you recognizing the cost of goods when you buy the item or when you sell the inventory? It is recognized when we sell it.
- What inventory is there other than literature? Chips, pamphlets, calendars, bracelets, etc.
- Are medallions bought from a source or are they printed up specifically for us? They are printed specifically for us.
- In what ways would we lose money if the copyright is not protected? Have to look out for somebody saying, "We can publish that. We'll just go print that and undercut them." We try to do the reasonable steps to protect copyright. We have never sued anyone and don't have to write threatening letters too often. We mostly get requests for reprinting. Publishers won't let them do so without our permission.

Steve went on to talk about our incorporation. Corporations and non-profit corporations are formed under state laws. S.L.A.A. is a non-profit, governed by the BOT. The corporation must file as a non-profit with the state, but also needs a non-profit status from the IRS. S.L.A.A. was incorporated in 1982 in Massachusetts as a non-profit corporation. In 2006, the Office was moved from Boston, Massachusetts to San Antonio, Texas. It came to the BFOC Chair's attention that our annual reports had been delinquent. We tried to bring these up to date. We found out in mid-2012 that the Secretary of State of Massachusetts would not accept our filings. In doing research on why our filings would not be accepted, we found that Massachusetts law states that if you are a non-profit, incorporated in Massachusetts, your principal office has to be in Massachusetts.

We are administratively dissolved as of the time of the ABM, which means we're in a delinquent status. The IRS states that if you open a new corporation in another state, it has to get a new tax ID number, which means we wouldn't get the benefit of the non-profit status in Massachusetts. We have incorporated a non-profit entity called The Augustine Fellowship S.L.A.A. Fellowship-Wide

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Services Inc. in Texas. This is currently a shell organization as it has no assets. We have also obtained a non-profit status for this corporation. There will be some motions on the Agenda in regard to this. Even with the administrative dissolution in Massachusetts, the Tax ID number and non-profit status still exists for Massachusetts. Money can still be donated. If there is a switch over it will happen all at once. In that case, accounts will need to be switched over to a new Tax ID number.

Mollie spoke again. She stated that our non-profit status came in in twenty-eight days. The organization is identical. Texas was a good choice for a non-profit. It only requires that \$25 be paid once every four years and that the names of the corporation's directors are given and that we are still in business.

Questions from the floor:

- If we were delinquent in Massachusetts, how did all of our money still stay tax deductible? We have two separate governments overseeing our organization. There is the state law and the IRS. One small aspect of the Massachusetts organization is delinquent. We are still in good standing with the IRS. Now there are two entities. The Texas "shell" organization is ready to go. The other one is still in good shape. Donations are still tax deductible. The administrative dissolution could put Board members at risk, but our money is not at risk.
- Noticed F.W.S. is still using the QGive Donation system, which has a really high exchange rate. Have they looked at other ways to do this so it's not taking so much from our donations before it gets to F.W.S.? The organization will look into this.
- The fiscal year runs from October to September. There is one motion on the Agenda that could affect the time that the ABM occurs. Could this affect the timing of the fiscal year? If the timing was moved, it changes how much of the Fiscal Year can be reported on at the ABM. The timing doesn't really affect the Fiscal Year. They're not tied together.

A 15 minute break was taken before the next session.

General Assembly; Tuesday, August 6, 2013 – 5:00 P.M.

Facilitator – Jack S.; Assistant Facilitator – Monique S.; Backup Facilitator – Juanita J.; Timekeeper – Mark H.

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

Rita H. reported on the Office. The Office has staff and independent contractors. Rita stated she feels she is leaving the Office in good hands and in better condition than when she started. Susan G. is stepping into the position of Office Supervisor.

Susan G. reported as Office Supervisor. Income for Store sales have been going up. There was \$10,000 in sales this year. 2,455 newcomer packets have been sold in the last year. 15 New Group Basic Starter kits, 26 New Anorexia meeting starter kits and 3 New Intergroup starter kits have been sent out. Lots of CDs have been sold this year.

Tom F. reported as BOT chair. Tom B. and Rita H. are both leaving the Board at the end of this ABM. The BOT has been taking care of the Office for a while and they are trying to get to a place where they can be more of a strategic Board so they can take care of the Fellowship and its future. The BOT hired a consultant from Authenticity Consulting to help determine how to do this. The BOT has obtained clear focus and direction and has sufficient resources to pursue this. This provides a firm foundation to

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further develop and expand the program and services. The BOT is trying to grow the Fellowship and be better for the addict that still suffers.

Steve B. reported as chair of the BFOC. The committee meets twice a month. During the first meeting of the month, the BFOC goes over the subcommittee reports. There are a number of subcommittees for the BFOC. During the second meeting of the month, the BFOC goes over financials. Part of the BFOC's responsibilities include preparation of the budget and presentation of a proposed budget to the BOT as well as helping in preparing the tax filings and governmental reports. This was the first time in several years that the books were completely audited. No irregularities were found and some minor recommendations were made. The BFOC recommended a return of \$10,000 to the prudent reserve fund.

Rick B. reported as chair for the BGNC. The BGNC focuses on the internal activities and procedures of the BOT. One of their primary purposes is to find candidates for service on the BOT or on board committees as non-BOT members. The BGNC takes care of the orientation materials for new BOT members. There are templates and step by step instructions for each BOT member.

Tom B. reported as chair of the BPRC. Outreach was done at mental health care professionals conventions. The BPRC created banners and outreach cards. A webpage has been created where a PDF for cards and banners can be printed. The BPRC also created an S.L.A.A. membership survey which is now available online.

Conference Committee reports: Complete reports are found in the binder for those committees and subcommittees that submitted reports; this presentation includes some highlights.

CAC – The CAC created a “What is Anorexia” document and an IFD is on the Agenda associated with this document. There is a designated first responder each month to respond to e-mails received through the F.W.S. website for the CAC. An initial review has been completed of the first draft of the “Anorexia 4-5-6-7” booklet. They are also working on a list of anorexia resources to provide on the F.W.S. website. The Anorexia Focus Meeting Starter Kit now includes the “Anorexia 1-2-3” booklet.

CBC – inactive

CCC – The CCC changed the name of the BMIS to the “Agenda.” They have discussed worldwide outreach and the photograph policy at the ABM. They are part of the process of approving the ABM minutes each year. There has been discussion over the year about draft literature attachments and changing the conference committee schedule at the ABM. The Conference Service Manual revision (CSR) workgroup made changes to the first seven pages of the CSM.

CCAC - inactive

CDC – There is currently no chair or vice-chair. The committee projects currently being worked on include the Diversity Statement, Diversity Awareness Questionnaire and Diversity survey.

CFC – The committee was initially concerned with developing the committee budgets. They have also been concerned with fundraising issues. They produced an IFD that may be on the Agenda regarding raising the individual contribution amount.

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CHRC – No oral report given.

CIFC – The CIFC produced a survey being distributed at the ABM. They are asking members to tell about projects, activities and other cooperation between S.L.A.A. and other S – Fellowships. The plan is to take that information and share it on a general level with the rest of the Fellowship.

CICC – inactive

CIC – The CIC has not met this year. The committee needs more members. The intent of the committee is to increase the focus of S.L.A.A. on the internet and in other modalities.

CJC – Committee projects are the Journal Focus Booklets, an Archival Inventory, back issue distribution, a Journal calendar, an e-version of the Journal, an International Multi-Lingual issue of the Journal, and a Diversity topic issue of the Journal.

CLC – The CLC encourages the planning and writing of literature. In addition to the monthly teleconference, there are two other monthly conference calls. One is the Writing Group Liaison Subcommittee. The “Twelve and Twelve” book project also has a conference call. The CLC has put in a budget request for part-time technical support to assist with the “Twelve and Twelve” book project. The F.W.S. Office is in the process of hiring someone to fill this role. Handouts have been passed out with samples of pieces of literature in progress, asking for feedback from members of the conference.

CMRC – No oral report.

CPOC – A flier has been distributed asking for prisoner pen pals. They provide literature to inmates. The Women’s Subcommittee was new last year. There are two groups doing regional outreach. One is in women’s institutions in Los Angeles and another is in Tampa Bay. The biggest accomplishment this year was the completion of the Twelve Steps in simplified English.

CPIC – The CPIC is working on video public service announcements as well as training videos for Intergroups about how to speak with the public. They are asking Intergroups for any outreach information they use. The Suggestions for Outreach document presented at last year’s ABM has been completed and they are also working on kits to give to treatment facilities.

CMRBOTC – The CMRBOTC did not meet this year and did not intend to meet. The CMRBOTC is meant to act as a liaison between members and the BOT and Office.

CSC – The CSC has been working on developing ideas for service-related literature. They started by working on a newsletter and have also begun a plan to produce a service pamphlet.

CSPC – The biggest accomplishment of the year for the CSPC was that the sponsorship teleseries was put into MP3 format for sale on the F.W.S. website. They have updated their mission statement. There is a long-distance sponsorship program within the committee. There are not many people willing to be long-

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distance sponsors, so the CSPC has broadened this program to include more than just sponsorship, i.e. co-sponsorship, and recovery partners. They continue to offer assistance to people requesting sponsors.

CSTC – No oral report.

CTC – The CTC meets on Skype. The main projects have been to develop a booklet with guidelines to help people translate Conference-Approved literature. Another project is the multi-language issue of the Journal. They also discussed concerns over the Concepts being passed and made a core document without going through the proper procedures. This is significant as the CTC has to contact other countries about having documents translated.

The “Twelve and Twelve” book presentation originally scheduled for the day was postponed until the following morning.

The floor was opened for nominations for new BOT members. No nominations were made.

Following announcements, the General Assembly was adjourned for the day at 6:00 P.M. for dinner and the Speaker Meeting. General Assembly was scheduled to resume on Wednesday, August 7, 2013 at 8:00 A.M.

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Wednesday, August 7, 2013

General Assembly; Wednesday, August 7, 2013 – 8:00 A.M.

Facilitator – Tom F.; Assistant Facilitator – Juanita J.; Back up Facilitator – Jay G. (OH); Time keeper – Steve L.; Spiritual reminder – Jay G. (PA)

The session began with a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer.

The number of voting members present was not recorded in these minutes. A count was made of the voting members present, and a determination was made that the quorum was met for the session.

Presentation from CLC regarding the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book project:

Lisa C. gave a presentation on the progress of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book project. Handouts were provided of draft literature from the Twelve and Twelve book. Lisa read from the letter written by CLC chair, Ron G. and herself, as vice-chair. The letter requests feedback on the draft literature provided. The handouts provided included both shares from members on the Steps and Traditions as well as drafts of chapters for the book. Volunteers came to the microphone to read two paragraphs each from the chapter on Step One. Feedback sheets were then passed around to be filled out.

Questions from the floor:

- What is the mission and purpose of the document? We wanted to go further in depth on the Steps and Traditions. It would be a good tool to have.
- What is the difference between this book and other Tradition books being used? We would like to have feedback from other Intergroups on any other Tradition books being used. We would like something from F.W.S. that can be sold in our store on the Steps and Traditions.
- Support was shown for the project. Our Fellowship has not had much else on the subject of the Traditions before this.
- Fantastic work on this. Very impressed with the work that has been done.
- What is the estimated length of time for completing the project? There is no deadline. Shares have been in the process of being collected since 2008. There is a 12 and 12 phone number, website and G-mail account. They have been sending out share sheets for the past two years.
- The font of the shares is hard to read. The type is very small. The lack of paragraphs makes it hard to read as well. The CLC will be sending this to another author. Anything written on the feedback sheets will be given to the new author. The font is so small because they were trying to keep it to as few pages as possible. When it is sent in an e-mail, it can be in any font desired.
- Is there a possibility that we could make a pamphlet for each Step, so we don't have to wait several years to see anything? The CLC has been sending out one chapter at a time for feedback.
- Would like to see more emphasis of "we" in the document. Should avoid redundancy of wording ("some of us," "many of us"). Would also like something to let the reader know that not everything is going to "fit them like a glove." The first Step is about capturing that we all walk in scared and don't have a clue. Some of the current language reads like it is written from the perspective of having worked all twelve Steps. Lisa stated that what is included in the writing comes from the original share sheets, which were provided and this helps indicate where some of the "voices" come into the document.

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With conclusion of the administrative housekeeping and presentations, the Conference began addressing the Agenda items.

Motion 13o01/12-04 Approve Diversity Statement

Motion was withdrawn by the CDC.

IFD 13n01/13-01 For the time of year the ABM is held to be changed

Time was given for Committee comments. There were no comments made.

20 minutes were given for comments:

- The submitter stated that it currently costs \$3,500 for a UK delegate to come to the ABM during the summer.
- Events at the ABM, including committee budget requests, flow into the budgeting process. Last year, we were unable to adopt a budget before the beginning of the fiscal year. Would not want to aggravate that by moving the meeting later in the year. If moving the ABM earlier in the year would help us with budget concerns, would support moving to an earlier date.
- Did the proposers of the IFD have another time of year in mind? If there is a way to make it more accessible on an international level, would support this. Would like to see research on when would be a better time.
- April or May is a great time to travel or October. The IFD mentions June or September. There are a lot of people who are teachers. They would not be able to do that, but it's also cheaper when school is in.
- For parents, moving the ABM later than July or August would make them less likely to attend because their kids are in school. Also, people flying in from where there is snow would avoid winter as a time of year for the ABM.
- The flight is not always the most expensive cost. Sometimes it is the cost of the hosting facility. Would it be possible to offer a stipend to international travelers to help offset the cost of travel?
- The times of year given in the IFD are just suggestions. There has been intense scrutiny in the UK Intergroup as to whether or not to send more than one delegate due to financial concerns.
- We have been conducting the ABM in July since 1999. It has only been held in August twice, both times in San Antonio due to the lower cost of the hotel. The TEF pays about 50% of the cost of travel.
- Everyone should be able to participate in service. This was the first time the Intergroup from Sweden was able to contribute at all to the cost of travel for their delegate, and they were only able to contribute a portion of the cost. We need to look at how we can reduce costs.
- Have heard a lot of ways to raise funds for delegates here at the ABM.
- The Fiscal Year can change. The BPRC suggested relying on Intergrups more for support rather than for planning as the Intergrups do not have the experience to plan the ABM. For the last ten years, the ABM has been held in the south. We need some regional diversity. We need to hear voices from people all over.
- The Tampa Bay Intergroup hosts an event every year to raise funds for delegates. They have their delegates pass a basket around a second time for the delegate fund.

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- Was wondering if the percentage contributed from the TEF fund could be increased for international members.
- We could possibly utilize technology in a better way to include individuals who are unable to be at the ABM in person. Those who do not struggle with funds could look at giving financial assistance through some sort of scholarship program.
- The way the TEF fund works is that everyone contributes. If you live over five hundred miles from the ABM location, you can submit a TEF form for partial compensation. The percentage that individuals are compensated depends on the number of people attending who live within or outside of the five hundred mile range. There was a past motion to give international delegates more money for expenses, but it was for that year only.

Time expired for this item. Space will be reserved on the first version of the 2014 Agenda for this item to come back as a Motion.

IFD 13n02/13-02 CAC Feedback on “What is Anorexia?” being made a core document

Time was given for committee comments:

- The CLC would like clarification on the difference between literature and core documents and how literature becomes a core document.

20 minutes were given for additional comments:

- The CAC created the document with the intent of helping anorectics identify themselves. It was suggested that a core document might be helpful for people to identify as anorectics and know that they belong in this program.
- There is no easily accessible, free information on anorexia. Core documents originally started with the translation process. If something else is made a core document, it has to go through that same translation process. We may need an alternative. Something that is not necessarily a core document and doesn't need to go through that same process.
- Feel that anorexia is a major component of our addiction and if this were a Motion, they would support it.
- Feel the document is a good start, but needs more work. Have volunteers willing to help.
- Members in Germany want more information on anorexia. It will likely take one or two years before the current literature is translated into German.
- One of the most common questions heard from members new to the Fellowship is, “What is Anorexia?”
- If something can be put on the website that is easily accessible and free, in support of it.
- Would like more literature available online for newcomers.
- Do not believe this rises to the level of a core document. How many other facets of sex and love addiction would need to have independent core documents?
- Think it is time for the Conference to own the idea of core documents, ratify the existing documents and do so with future documents.
- Stepped into another fellowship due to anorexia. Still have to dig to find information on anorexia in this Fellowship.

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- The ARS has submitted an IFD to look further at the topic of core documents and literature.
- Support the language of this item as being helpful to many people.
- In favor of seeing a twelve characteristics of anorexia document as a core document.
- The BPRC and CTC work hard to determine what needs to be translated. The seven core documents have been translated without editing or approval of Office.
- Highly recommend inclusion of this item as a core document. The core documents should be those documents without which one could not start a meeting or Intergroup.
- The anorexia pamphlet is too big to have as a core document. It would be a lot to have to translate. Could make it more succinct.
- Feels this item does not reach the level of being a core document. Thinks we could possibly have the document published on the F.W.S. website.
- Anything we can be more inclusive with, we should promote. This can be a divisive issue in our Fellowship. Many people are asking for information and we need to go forward with this.
- This document is already on the CAC page of the F.W.S. website.
- Left the program for a while because nobody was talking about healthy relationships, dating or anorexia. Doesn't go to an anorexia meeting, because so many people in home meeting qualify as anorectics.
- Have learned that anorexia is an integral part of sex and love addiction. The two cannot be separated. Everyone displays these characteristics in some way.
- Three favorite meetings ever attended incorporated anorexia in the discussion.
- Feel that this is a separate category. Feel it focuses on differences instead of similarities. Would like to see it on the F.W.S. website in a more accessible location. If it helps the addict heal, they feel it is important.

Time expired for this item. Space will be reserved on first version of the 2014 Agenda for this item to come back as a Motion.

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, August 7, 2013 – 2:15 P.M.

Facilitator – Jack S.; Assistant Facilitator – Andrew H.; Backup Facilitator – Juanita J.; Time Keeper – Luis C. ; Spiritual Reminder – Jay G. (PA); Vote Counters – Conrad G. and Mark H.

The session began with 38 voting members present. The quorum was met.

Motion – 13n03/13-03 to ratify the Board of Trustees' formation of a Texas non-profit corporation

Time was given for committee comments:

- CSPC moves to support the motion.
- CPIC supports the motion.

Three Pros and Cons beginning with the pro microphone:

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- Submitted as result of legal matters beyond the BOT's control. Best choice as presented to the Fellowship. Difference to members will be undetectable. Pertains mostly to filing requirements. Texas' administrative burdens are significantly less than that of Massachusetts.

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

Vote was 36-0-0. There were no "No" votes. There is no minority opinion.

The Motion passed.

The Motion passed by greater than 2/3 of the voting members, and the quorum was met, therefore the vote is binding on the BOT as per the By-Laws.

Motion – 13n04/13-04 to adopt attached By-Laws of the newly incorporated Texas non-profit Corporation

Time was given for committee comments:

- CSPC moved to support the motion.

Three Pros and Cons beginning with the pro microphone:

- Parlance is that of secretary rather than clerk. Other than that, there are no changes. This motion only deals with making those three minor changes to the bylaws.

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

Vote was 36-0-0. There were no "No" votes. There is no minority opinion.

The Motion passes.

The Motion passed by greater than 2/3 of the voting members, and the quorum was met, therefore the vote is binding on the BOT as per the By-Laws.

Motion – 13n05/13-05 Motion to Change By-Laws – Inclusion of Twelve Concepts

Time was given for committee comments:

- CSPC moved to support the motion.

Three Pros and Cons beginning with the pro microphone:

- Concepts have been around the conference for many years and they were voted to be adopted at last year's ABM. The Board asks for them to be incorporated into the By-Laws.

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

A point of clarification was asked as to what the motion was that was accepted last year.

The response was that the Conference voted to adopt the Concepts, but not to include them in the By-Laws.

A point of clarification was asked as to why the inclusion of the By-Laws was needed.

The response was that the By-Laws include the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Recommended Guidelines. Adding the Twelve Concepts would be a further protection.

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Vote was 35-0-2. There were no “No” votes. There is no minority opinion.

The Motion passed.

The Motion passed by greater than 2/3 of the voting members, and the quorum was met, therefore the vote is binding on the BOT as per the By-Laws.

A point of clarification was made that one voting member had been out of the room for the previous two motions, which accounts for the additional vote on this motion.

Motion – 13n06/13-06 Motion to Change the By-Laws – Changes to Article V, Section 8, Article VI, Section 5, 7

Time was given for committee comments:

- CSPC moved to support the motion.

Three Pros and Cons beginning with the pro microphone:

- Since new By-Laws are being adopted, we want to get it right. There are no Board Conference Committees, only Board Committees. Deletion of the word, “telegram,” and inclusion of the word, “e-mail.” “Telegram” is antiquated and most business is now conducted via e-mail.

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 36-0-1. There were no “No” votes. There is no minority opinion.

The Motion passed.

The Motion passed by greater than 2/3 of the voting members, and the quorum was met, therefore the vote is binding on the BOT as per the By-Laws.

Motion – 13n07/13-07 Motion to Change By-Laws – Changes to Article VI, Sections 2, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17

Time was given for committee comments:

- CSPC moved to support the motion.

A point of clarification was asked as to whether the committees described in the motion still existed and are just not described in the By-Laws.

The response was that the change means that these committees will no longer be required.

Three Pros and Cons beginning with the pro microphone:

- Will change committees so that we are only required to have a Finance Committee. Doesn't require us to have a BGNC or BPRC. There was also a recommendation by the consultant to have twelve BOT members instead of nine.
- Oppose motion for increase in number of BOT members as there is no justification. Between ABMs, vacancies can be filled by the Board. With passage of this motion, there will be at least three vacancies that will be filled by the BOT. Oppose motion as we have rarely had nine members, let alone twelve. Thinks this guarantees there will be vacancies.
- BFOC needs to work smarter. Many members of the BOT were appointed. The Board does not appoint members just because a position is empty. They are appointed as needed. They do not

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have to increase the number of current members, but this motion will give the ability to do so if needed.

- Need an odd number on a Board. The Finance committee needs to have an audit committee. All companies in the United States have an independent audit company. None of these members will be independent. Would like to make a counter-proposal.

A point of clarification was made that there will be committees that deal with outreach and governance. They will not go away. The motion asks for a change in the By-Laws so they will not be bound to only have three committees. The BOT will be able to work toward the number of committees the consultant has recommended. Trustees that are appointed must be confirmed by the Conference or their term comes to an end.

Pros and Cons continued:

- With one member of the BOT, who has done a tremendous amount of work, leaving the BOT, there will be a greater need for more individuals to join the BOT. There have not been nine members in the past because few people are willing to do the work required.
- There has not been sufficient time for the Fellowship world-wide to address this motion, as it was just added at the ABM. Would like to table the motion and give the BOT the opportunity to explain the value of increasing the number of Board members.

A point of clarification was made to state that because one third of the BOT rotates off every year, they decided it would be helpful to change the amount to twelve members. The BOT is rarely very close in their votes.

A suggestion was made to continue with the vote on this motion and postpone the break. The majority of members present agreed to this.

A suggestion was made to table the motion, to carry over to the next ABM.

A point of clarification was asked as to how this motion would be tabled.

The response was given that the originators could table the motion or someone else on the floor could make a motion to table the motion. If a motion was made, there would be a vote to table the original motion. If the tabling motion did not pass, voting on the original motion would proceed. If the motion to table did pass, the original motion would be tabled until the next ABM.

A motion was made to table the original motion. There was a second to table the motion.

A point of clarification was asked as to whether the tabling motion is an up-down vote with no abstentions.

The response was that this was correct: the voting for a motion to table is an up-down vote, with no abstentions.

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

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Motion to table Motion **13n07/13-07** to change the By-Laws

Vote was 25-12.

The Motion passed.

Motion 13n07/13-07 will be tabled until next year's ABM.

The General Assembly was adjourned at for a break. Business resumed at 3:45 PM.

General Assembly; Wednesday, August 7, 2013 – 3:45 P.M.

Facilitator – Jack S.; Assistant Facilitator – Andrew H.; Back up Facilitator – Juanita J.; Time keeper – Luis C.; Vote counters – Conrad G. and Steve F.

The session began with 34 voting members present. The quorum was met.

IFD – 13n08/13-08 Discussion for feedback on creating criteria for what must go through the Conference Literature Approval Process

A point of clarification was made that the ARS accepts items onto the Agenda. This IFD was made by the ARS. Therefore the ARS asked the full CCC for approval of this item on the Agenda.

Time was given for Committee comments:

- The CLC welcomes guidelines as to what is or is not within the purview of the CLC.
- The CHRC wants clarification on drafts and if they are included as a part of this.
- The CPIC wants to know if outreach tools would require Conference Approval. They also want to know if approval includes the text of a document or both the format and the text.
- The CTC would like Conference feedback on the approval of core documents and their inclusion on the F.W.S. website. The CTC was not consulted or informed of the addition of the Twelve Concepts on the F.W.S. website. If there is currently no official process, the CTC would like feedback on how this process should occur.

20 minutes were given for additional comments:

- Literature that goes through the CLC process should be recovery-focused. Feels that a process similar to that used by the ARS to pick items for the Agenda could be helpful. There is objective criteria that allows a fair examination and limits the subjective input. Timelines are important.
- At what point do we start protecting the copyright? What about draft literature? Could help to get a task force together to try to come up with a process.
- Important at a meeting level to have the F.W.S. approval on documents.
- Literature is something we sell and other items could be called documents.
- Feel that requiring all documents to have to go through the CLC process turns those individuals into governors. Does the CLC approval process have more authority over group conscience?
- There is a process for literature, but there are other items released, such as on the website, which are not going through any process. This should probably go through some process as well.
- Before the CLC review process, pamphlets had to have content that had already been printed somewhere else. This was unwieldy and repetitious.
- The idea of the CLC is to be editors. We need to look at how much authority the CLC has.

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- Anything on the website has to go through the web team approval process.
- The Agenda Review Subcommittee process states that motions or IFDs to create or produce literature that have not gone through the CLC process can be rejected. The ARS did not feel they could change the process without input at the Conference level.
- The CSC is working on a pamphlet on service. Does it need to be reviewed by anybody?
- The CLC has been trying to establish universal procedures for draft literature. Once the CLC approves something, it comes to the Conference for approval. When committees produce draft literature, it is supposed to go through the CLC process.
- After the Conference approves literature, the BPRC reviews it. They try to incorporate Conference feedback and review literature from the perspective of context within S.L.A.A. Not sure if the CLC can manage the work it has. A process similar to what the ARS uses for the Agenda would help.
- Took it for granted that anything proposed as an IFD one year could be a motion the next year and did not realize that that does not include literature. Did not know the process and appreciate the reminder.

Time expired for this item. Space will be available for this document on the first version of the 2014 Agenda.

Time was made available for announcements while attachment needed for next IFD was being passed out.

IFD – 13n09/13-09 Discussion for feedback on raising the maximum amount an individual may contribute to F.W.S.

Time was given for Committee comments:

- A “history of giving” for the Fellowship was passed out to members of the Conference. Contributions went up until 2001-2002, and then leveled off. 40% of revenue comes from giving. When limits were raised before, it coincided with a raise in contributions. Raising the limit would show that the organization encourages giving. If we have more funds, we can support more staff work. S.A.A. is a smaller organization but raises twice the funds and has twice the staff. Maybe there are other things we should try. Over the last ten years, we are raising about the same amount or less.

The break was postponed to allow for twenty minutes of discussion.

A point of clarification was asked as to what the federal limit is for the maximum donation to a non-profit. The response was that there is no limit.

20 minutes were given for additional comments:

- Safeguards could be put in place to keep someone from over-influencing us.
- The current limit is \$12,000 to the general fund. There is no limit for giving to the prudent reserve. A.A.’s cap for individual contributions is \$3,000. A.A. says there must be a limit so no one has too much of an influence.

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A point of clarification was asked as to whether a motion can be made now to approve this. The response was no. The motion would have to be made next year.

Additional comments continued:

- If people wish to give more than the current limits, there are ways to do this. They can donate through their group and it would funnel through to the Fellowship. Do not think our decisions should be swayed by the fact that contributions have been discouraging. When money is involved, ego is involved.
- A.A. has a limit at the national level. They raise their money at the Intergroup level. Al-Anon has a \$90,000 limit. Don't think the A.A. national level is comparative. What we're doing isn't working.
- In 2004, how many donations came close to being a \$12,000 donation? Not sure. Now we just have one a year.
- Thinks encouraging more people to make smaller donations would be more helpful. Maybe \$10 - \$20 a month. Feels this would be more in line with the Traditions.
- Have put the "What is F.W.S." cards on coffee cans and collected money from individual meetings. Should be many members giving small amounts.
- Thinks there are still some left over bad feelings about what happened in the Office a few years ago. More can be done to show that things are back under control.
- Referenced Tradition Six. Thinks it would benefit to have more emphasis on the 60/40 way and how to donate to F.W.S..
- The Concepts talk about guarding from perilous wealth. Whatever we make, we spend to help reach the addict who still suffers. The new Office General Manager specializes in developing programs and reaching people and hopefully she will be able to help us develop programs in the future that will be very effective, and that will cost money.
- Money given to the prudent reserve stays there and is not being used to help the addict who still suffers. If your Intergroup is not a 501(c)3, you won't be able to deduct the donation. There are large markups on our items right now. Poor people give what they can give and rich people give what they can give.
- By upping the cap, it helps get the word out that there is a need. It doesn't mean that someone is going to decide to donate their life savings. We need to put focus on telling people what F.W.S. is.
- If there are higher contributions, the cost of literature might go down.
- People get turned off about appealing for money. Like to promote the sale of literature. It carries the message and also helps fund F.W.S. For groups that don't have any literature on their table, this can be a good start. A lot of meetings are so well attended, they provide literature for free. It is our primary purpose to carry the message.
- If someone feels they can give more money, they could establish scholarship funds to increase participation at the ABM. Could help bring people from outside the North American continent.

Time for discussion expired and a space will be available for this document on the first version of the 2014 Agenda.

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General Assembly; Wednesday, August 7, 2013 – 5:00 P.M.

Facilitator – Jack S.; Assistant Facilitator – Andrew H.; Backup Facilitator – Juanita J.;

Time Keeper – Luis C.

The number of voting members present was not recorded.

The quorum was met.

IFD – 13n10/13-10 Discussion for feedback on canceling the face-to-face Annual Conference and holding a special Conference meeting instead if the Agenda has fewer than five motions

Time was given for committee comments (fifteen minutes):

- The CPIC feels the face-to-face meeting rejuvenates the committee membership for the year. The quantity of items does not affect the quality or importance of the items. The ABM is vital to the BOT election process. If money is a priority, we may lose our spiritual focus.
- The CHRC believes that a face to face meeting is vital to maintaining healthy relationships. Face to face meetings increase our sobriety and our ability to help addicts who still suffer.
- The CSC believes the face to face meeting is vital to the health of their committee by rejuvenating them with new members and new ideas.
- The CCAC asks for the consideration of Concepts One and Two.

20 minutes were given for additional comments:

- At what point in time would we make the decision that we had not reached the appropriate five motions? Does the IFD refer to five items for discussion and/or motions or just five motions?
- We only had three items on the Agenda before this ABM, but ended up with a lot more due to legal needs. Do we want to take the chance of not being able to do business because we do not have a meeting?
- Some Intergroups might be struggling with raising funds and if there is not enough on the Agenda, they might not feel the need to send a delegate. Our Fellowship is large enough to have double the people present at the ABM. If we get less than five items, the rest of the Fellowship might not get to hear about these items.
- The Conference is the most reliable resource we have for committee membership. The Conference is the voice and conscience of the Fellowship. It is important to appeal to Intergroups that as many people and resources as possible be sent to the ABM.
- Feel this would be difficult to enforce. Another fellowship meets every two years for a conference and then has an IRC in the intervening years. Don't think our Fellowship is able to do this yet. A lot of people get a lot out of phone and internet meetings.
- There are people who start working on the next ABM immediately after this one. What do we do with the money raised if the ABM ends up not being held?
- What is a special conference meeting, as referenced in the IFD?
- The ABM shows the balance between the BOT and the Conference. There is a lot of dialogue that goes on and necessary tension. It is important to have face-to-face meetings.
- There is a process in the CSM for having special conference meetings for items that come up that are integral to the working of the Fellowship. The BOT can call for a special meeting outside of the ABM.

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- Face to face meetings are important for the Fellowship. Have been involved in service work on translations. Translation brings up some complicated issues, specifically around copyrights. It makes it harder to violate the copyrights when you know the individuals on the BOT.
- At the ABM, we get to know the BOT. Without the in-person meetings, we might not have conference committees. Can call some of the people met at the ABM at any time for help without fear of rejection.
- A.A. is willing to spend 10% of their income on their annual conference. It's a training ground, a chance to get to know each other and continue to carry the message to the suffering sex and love addict. We need to be organized to some degree in order to do that.

Time for discussion expired and a space will be available on the first version of the 2014 Agenda for a motion.

IFD – 13n11/13-11 Discussion for feedback on group travel arrangements for an Annual Conference outside of the North American continent

Time was given for Committee comments. There were no comments made.

Time was given for additional comments:

- It saves a lot of money. It makes a big difference if you can get a lot of people together. It can reduce airfare.
- Don't remember if there's ever been a Conference outside of the U.S. There are a lot of people in the Fellowship all around the world. If there was a way that a lot of people could get together as a group to fly overseas, it would give more chances to network. Think this is a worthwhile idea to investigate.
- Most large organizations go through travel consolidator organizations that arrange their airfare. There are greater savings to be had in doing this.
- We wouldn't want to put the entire BOT on one airplane, due to the possibility of an accident. There also might be different results if we hold a conference overseas, possibly for the better.
- Thinks it is important that we do not make rules and regulations that limit Intergroups and groups. We could offer options to help groups and Intergroups get to a conference, like a bulk rate, but do not make rules that keep them from doing what is best for them.
- If there is one central person arranging flights, how would this affect our anonymity?
- If this was crafted into a motion, how would it obligate F.W.S. to manage other peoples' airfare? Maybe a motion could request that the Office or ABM planning committee look at this as an option. If this were made a part of our structure, it could be an obligation. This may work better at the group level.

No further discussion. A space will be available on the first version of the 2014 Agenda for a motion.

Decision was made to stop work on the Agenda for the day. Following announcements, the General Assembly was adjourned for the day for a break and dinner. A "Meet the Delegates" session, and "Open mic" talent session was followed by our "Live Auction" and Raffle.

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Thursday, August 8, 2013 8:00 AM

General Assembly; Thursday, August 8, 2013 – 8:00 A.M.

Facilitator – Monique S.; Assistant Facilitator – Gabriel G.; Backup Facilitator – Jay G. (OH);

Time Keeper – Conrad G.; Spiritual Reminder – Jay G. (PA); Vote Counters – Luis C. and Steven F.

The session began with 38 members present.

The quorum was met.

Began with the Serenity Prayer, reading of the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Steps in Portuguese, the Twelve Traditions, the Twelve Traditions in Swedish and the Twelve Concepts.

An additional motion was passed out and instructions were given on how to add it to the Agenda in the ABM binders. This motion was submitted before the deadline, but due to technical difficulties it was not received by the ARS in time to be discussed Tuesday night.

IFD – 13n12/13-12 Discussion for feedback on revising the 40 Questions

Time was given for committee feedback (20 minutes):

- The CLC is open to reviewing the 40 Questions with the help of the Greater Delaware Valley Intergroup.
- The CAC supports the revision of the 40 Questions and would like to see questions that address anorexia.

20 minutes were given for additional comments:

- Impressed with the work done on this.
- Good idea to review statements and keep them up to date. Could there be more than forty questions?
- It could be that there needs to be more than forty questions. There may also be the need to address gay/lesbian concerns.
- A number of questions contain archaic language. We need to think about updating our literature while preserving our history. If the questions are easy, that's great, but if you have too many questions, people get tired of reading it. The CLC has asked about review and updating literature. It is confusing as to who is responsible for watching the review process.
- A.A. has a small card with twenty questions. Our addiction is complex with many facets. Wonder if there could be sub-categories with up to ten questions each that could focus on different areas.
- Technology changes quickly. Maybe this shouldn't be a core document so that there is more flexibility.
- Like how the questions are categorized. Would like to see an analysis of the old questions and maybe still keep the number at forty.
- Rather than adding to the forty questions, would like to see forty questions for anorexia.
- Heard a suggestion that we could call it the "updated version for the new millennium."
- In the interest of keeping things updated, there is one question that asks about deleting browsing history. Could also include "private browsing." Also thinks that separating acting out and anorexia can be confusing to people.

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- The 40 Questions are a point of entry for a lot of our members. Suggest bringing in a consultant to help format the document.
- Would like to see both acting out and anorexia together. Like the idea of bringing the questions up to date. Like the old questions and the new ones proposed. An update would be great but needs to be done with care.
- Could risk updating an outdated document into another outdated document. Technology changes quickly. A new document could become outdated again in another ten or twenty years.
- People tend not to pick up the Anorexia packet. People may be more willing to pick up the 40 questions with the anorexia questions included.
- There are thirty questions for anorexia found on the French S.L.A.A. website. They are probably not Conference approved, but this is a resource that could be used.
- Support the notion of having consultants involved who are familiar with sex and love addiction.
- Would like to see something on a small sheet of paper, rather than sending someone to the internet. Something simple that people could refer to.
- The Office has a subcommittee under the BFOC called the F.W.S.LRS (the literature reformatting subcommittee). Every time a pamphlet needs to be reprinted, it is reviewed for grammatical or spelling errors.
- If we were to use therapist consultants, it would be best to write in easily understandable language and avoid psychobabble.
- Excited by the idea of a literature review committee.
- If there are only ten questions about any given category, it might help people identify out.

No further discussion. A space will be available on the first version of the 2014 Agenda for a motion.

Motion – 13n13/13-13 Motion to obtain Conference approval of the S.L.A.A. Inspiration Line

A point of clarification was made to state that like *the Journal*, the Inspiration Line would be conference approved, but the content would not. A conference committee would be developed for the Inspiration Line.

A point of clarification was made to state that anything in the current motion would be Conference approved. If the Inspiration Line wanted to change its number, would it need Conference approval? The response was that if it's in the motion, yes. If it's in the intent, no.

A point of clarification was made that the Greater Delaware Valley Intergroup (GDVI) copied the motion originally used for *the Journal*. In regard to the phone number, any changes would occur through the Inspiration Line's committee.

A point of clarification was made to state that nothing in the motion makes reference to representation at the Conference. Would there be someone, like *the Journal* editor, who is always at the Conference? The response was that the GDVI would be open to that and would follow recommendations made by the Board and the Conference.

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A point of clarification was made to ask what is done with the reports detailing the numbers of calls, area codes and length of feedback messages.

The response was that the statistics help determine where calls are coming from. They do not have individual phone numbers or names, just areas. If there were more calls from other countries, there might be a need to make the Inspiration line more accessible.

A point of clarification was made about the request that *the Journal* publish an ad on the back page of every issue. Would this be mandated?

The response was that this is just a request.

A point of clarification was made that having never heard the Inspiration Line, it would be difficult to vote on it. Is it possible to hear a message?

The Inspiration Line recording began to be played over a cell phone speaker in response to this question, but it was determined that this was getting out of the area of points of clarification and getting into the actual motion. The recording of the Inspiration line was then stopped.

A point of clarification was made to ask for more information about the content of the Line. Is it about Steps, Traditions, spiritual?

The response was that it is about all of these things.

A point of clarification was made that points of clarification need to be about the motion itself and not the content of the motion.

A point of clarification was made to ask what steps the GDVI will take to surrender the number to the Conference.

A point of clarification was made to ask what "surrender" means.

A point of clarification was made that this is also getting into discussion of the motion.

A point of clarification was made that the intent of the Inspiration Line was to provide a place that an addict could call, 24/7 to find hope, strength and experience. It is a mini meeting every time you call.

A point of clarification was made that this is getting into discussion and only points of clarification are being taken at this time.

A motion was made by the originator of Motion 13n13/13-13 to change the motion into an IFD. The motion was seconded.

A point of clarification was made to ask if a "no" vote means that it would still be a motion.

The response was that it would.

The voting process was explained followed by a 30-second moment of silence.

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The Motion was to change Motion **13n13/13-13** to an IFD.

Vote was 36-1.

The Motion passed. Motion 13n13/13-13 is now IFD 13n13/13-13

IFD – 13n13/13-13 Discussion for feedback on obtaining conference approval of the S.L.A.A.

Inspiration Line

The remaining time for the session was given for comments:

- Since hearing about the number, have used it every day. Took the number to home group and everyone was overjoyed. Would love to see the Inspiration Line be approved by the Conference.
- The language that “costs would continue to be covered by the GDVI” seems dangerous. If something were to happen to the GDVI, what would happen to the Line? The language could state that GDVI could support it, but if it’s going to be Conference approved, it should ultimately be the responsibility of the conference and F.W.S. as a whole.
- Would like to hear the Inspiration Line.
- A recording from the Inspiration Line was played over a cell phone speaker.
- What are the costs referred to in this IFD?
- Why would GDVI want to give this to F.W.S. to potentially “muck” it up? Not comfortable with the idea that F.W.S. be sharing responsibility with an Intergroup. Can see potential conflict in mixing service levels.
- Don’t think it’s fair for the GDVI to pay for it. It is not GDVI’s if it is given to the Conference. The conference would then have to be the one making decisions.
- Thinks the motion would need some help. If the number is included in the motion, it has to be that number. There also may be other formats that come about in the future, and if a medium is referenced in the motion, it would have to be that medium that is used.
- With the forming of a Conference committee for the Inspiration Line, it would be important to take into consideration what happens if there is a lack of participation on the committee. Would there be someone who would be a voting member of the Conference, just as *the Journal* editor is a voting member of the Conference?
- Would like to hear about challenges experienced by *the Journal* that might also come up for the Inspiration Line.
- The San Francisco/East Bay Intergroup had a phone line. For a long time, they didn’t know what was going on with it. Would want to make sure that the Inspiration Line would not get separated in a similar manner.

A point of clarification was made that comments will continue after break, committee sessions and lunch.

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General Assembly; Thursday, August 8, 2013 – 2:15 P.M.

Facilitator – Gabriel G.; Assistant Facilitator – Andrew H.; Backup Facilitator – Martina A.; Time Keeper – Pam M. (Houston); Spiritual Reminder – Steven F.

The count of voting members present was not recorded.

The quorum was met.

Time for next session was extended thirty minutes and third afternoon session was cancelled.

IFD 13n13/13-13 Discussion for feedback on obtaining conference approval of the S.L.A.A. Inspiration Line (continued)

10 minutes were given for additional comments:

- Don't draft a motion in any way that you're tied into any specific technology. Suggest drafting the motion in a way that is flexible. If there is a Conference committee formed for the Inspiration Line, expenses would flow through the Conference committee budget. The GDVI could donate funds. Gaining Conference approval opens up a lot of opportunities and would allow the Line to reach more people.
- Ideas can be submitted to committees, the Web team or BOT to get feedback before coming to the ABM. There were times when individuals on *the Journal* wanted subscriber information and statistics on a certain schedule. While *the Journal* is autonomous, the Office is in charge of the financial aspects of *the Journal*. Negotiating that got confusing and upsetting for some.
- Could the Inspiration Line be mentioned on the website without being Conference approved? There are other ways to get the message out there about the Inspiration Line before there is even a motion.
- Would love to see not only a flier but a virtual flier as well.
- The Inspiration Line has received over 91,000 calls. It is picking up speed and getting more calls per day. Do like the idea of getting it on the website as a twenty-four hour meeting.
- A lot of the challenges *the Journal* faced in the earlier years had been an inconsistent availability of Conference participants to make it happen. If the Inspiration Line is overseen by a Conference committee and the committee became inactive, would the line become inactive? Would need a backup plan. There are currently a lot of statistics on the Line. What is the chance of information being divulged to someone or tracked?

Time expired for this item. Space will be reserved on the first version of the 2014 Agenda for this to come back as a motion.

Agenda was completed at 2:37 P.M.

Presentation from BPRC and CPIC regarding Outreach:

Monique S. spoke about the Suggestions for Public Outreach document produced by the CPIC. The document was created due to the fact that there were not many guidelines for Intergroups and Lone Groups. There was ambiguity about what constitutes attraction and what constitutes promotion. Asked for feedback on the document.

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Markis C. spoke about the CPIC's project to do public service announcement videos on YouTube. F.W.S. is putting together a YouTube channel. The CPIC has come up with topics and is asking for script ideas. They will come up with a process to approve the videos. The CPIC would also like suggestions on how protecting anonymity in the videos. The CPIC has also been trying to collect outreach material from Intergroups. Would like to hear from the conference about what has worked and what is needed from the CPIC.

Sue B. spoke for the BPRC. There is a copy of the "Letter to the Professional" in the ABM binder. They are also available to download and print. There are also two free pamphlets and a free copy of the Journal. Martina A. spoke about the Call Squad. There are 71 Intergroups to liaison with. The BPRC is also exploring virtual teleconferences for underrepresented groups and Intergroups.

Rita H. spoke as a Board member of the BPRC. The BPRC receives media inquiries through a contact form on the website. There have been eleven media inquiries since January. The BPRC replies by reminding individuals to read our Recommended Guidelines for Dealing with the Media to see if they can comply. The BPRC's second project was a membership survey that is now available online. Rita also spoke about the F.W.S. Newsletter. There are currently about 1,700 subscribers.

Tom B. spoke again. The BPRC watches how the name "S.L.A.A." is being used. There are two high-profile movies opening at the end of September, dealing with sex addiction that will probably bring the issue to the forefront of the media. S.L.A.A. participated in two mental health professional conventions this year. One was held by SASH (Society for the Advancement of Sexual Health) in San Antonio Texas and the other was the first annual Sex and Love Addiction Conference in Brooklyn, New York. One project the BPRC is working on is the S.L.A.A. Awareness Campaign. Would like to hear feedback on how we can do outreach.

Time was given for feedback:

- The Intergroup in Houston did a mailing to 3,600 health professionals in their area. Passed an extra basket to pay for postage. Compiled a list of health professionals using phone books and the internet. Have seen a marked increase in membership. Have started four new meetings. Now looking at doing a mail-out to clergy.
- The GDVI has created a sex offender meeting. The Bucks County Pennsylvania legal system requires sex offenders to attend. The only way to get in is to be screened by a therapist and the individual who started the group. Law enforcement cannot come in.
- The Tampa Bay area has donated books to libraries. Have sent letters to professionals. Recently instituted a subcommittee of their outreach committee for institutions and hospitals. They have granted two media interviews. They were disappointed in the coverage as the addiction was highlighted and not the recovery. They fund outreach by selling the Basic Text for \$20. They buy 150 copies at a time, so that is a significant markup.
- Member participated in a project for the Discovery Channel in Canada. Members from Ontario Intergroup were present through filming to make sure the system worked and anonymity was honored. TV shows don't want anyone to be in shadow. They say viewers will not identify if the subject is in shadow.
- The Northeast Ohio Intergroup sent letters to health care professionals. They got the in-network list for a popular health plan. Omitted only those whose specialty was child psychology. Expenses were paid for out of the Intergroup's budget. The mailing contained a cover letter, a copy of the For Professionals pamphlet and a current meeting schedule. They ask newcomers,

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“How did you hear about us?” Several years ago a local television reporter recorded a meeting with a hidden recording device. An exposé appeared on television.

- The San Francisco/East Bay Intergroup has an H&I Department. Brought meetings into women’s jail, but failed because security clearance requirements were too stringent. They pass a separate can for funds with an H&I label. Working toward taking a question-and-answer panel into a rehab. Looked into putting billboards on public transportation, but was too expensive. Have contacted health care professionals about leaving literature in waiting rooms. Kaiser Hospital in Oakland houses many S.L.A.A. meetings. They give literature in lieu of rent. The H&I committee needs a male and a female co-chair and assistants as it is a lot of work.
- Would love something that could be posted at church.
- Back in the nineties was asked to represent a sex addict for a local TV station. Was put in silhouette but they didn’t disguise his voice. Sister saw him on television and recognized his voice. Intergroup has done outreach to professionals and are trying to do outreach to clergy. Cincinnati newspaper has a place for advertising self-help groups.
- The San Francisco/East Bay Intergroup used to put ads on Craig’s List. Had a booth at the Fulsom Street Fair, but were the only ones with clothes on. Have placed announcements in doctor’s offices. Try to get basic texts into libraries.
- Letters to professionals should be carefully drafted to honor the Traditions. Whether or not it is recognized as a disease is an outside issue.
- In 2001, at the IRC, they had notified press members to identify themselves but someone from the press did not identify themselves. Information was printed that identified individuals in the L.A. area who attended. Cell phones can be a problem as well.
- The GDVI gets a booth at a recovery walk in Philadelphia. They give information about beginner meetings, the Fellowship, pornography statistics and how it has influenced our society.

The session ended with general announcements and a 15 minute break.

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General Assembly – Thursday, August 8, 2013 – 3:45 P.M.

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

CCC presentation on Agenda review process:

Andrew H. spoke and gave references to items in the Conference Service Manual. Andrew spoke about the Agenda Review Subcommittee (ARS), which prepares the Agenda. A supplemental report was provided which included items that were submitted for the Agenda, including items that were not accepted. The importance of reading and understanding the process for submissions was impressed so that submitters will have a better chance of having an item accepted onto the Agenda. Discussed the process used to review items for the Agenda. Members of the Conference were encouraged to present any ideas about how to revise the process.

Jack S. spoke about the importance of getting items in early. If an item is submitted very close to the deadline, and the ARS has questions of clarification, the item will likely not get on to the Agenda. They would prefer items be submitted three to six months before the ABM. This will allow time for the ARS to help the submitter revise the item. Andrew H. referred to the items that did not make it onto the Agenda due to an inability to contact the submitters. The ARS will be contacting the submitters after the ABM so they can develop items for the Agenda next year.

Time was given for questions and comments:

- Can you explain the process of coming up with the 18 questions used to consider items for the Agenda? The questions were developed over a couple of years. If anyone thinks of other questions, they would love that feedback. The items are under review by the ARS.
- Have never seen such an impromptu Agenda. Showed appreciation for the work done by the ARS.
- When items come in for the Agenda at the last minute, delegates are unable to discuss with their Intergroups. Is the first night of the ABM an appropriate deadline? People at the ABM tend to come up with ideas when they get here. The ARS would like people to submit items in a more timely manner. They don't want to cut things off and make people feel they did not have an opportunity to submit something. It does put a strain on the ARS and the Office to get the Agenda out the next day.
- The timelines state that the First Agenda is distributed world-wide to the Fellowship and the Second Agenda goes to Conference members. Is there a difference? The ARS will need to look at this closer to make sure this is worded correctly.
- The Third Agenda goes out forty-five days before the ABM. It is a challenge to collect a group conscience in such a short amount of time. This has been discussed a lot over the years. Hopefully delegates can advise their Intergroups of the need to review the Agenda when it is released. It would be good to have a plan in place so everyone can meet and discuss it in a timely manner.
- Appreciate the question regarding the submission deadline. Can always make a motion to table a motion. Appreciate the CCC and ARS' time.
- Items that came on the Agenda late because of legal situation going on had to be taken care of at this time. We needed the 7:00 P.M. deadline so those items could be placed on the Agenda. The ARS did look at whether something could be distributed during the interim with some motions on it. They felt it would cause confusion. There is a process to vote on things between

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business meetings. The ARS needs feedback so they can make the process work for the Fellowship.

BOT Nominees – Tradition 11

Time was given to recognize members rotating out of service from the BOT.

Sharing on Tradition 11:

Bob G. – “Thank you. The Eleventh Tradition is important to me and it, they’re all important. All twelve Steps, all twelve Traditions, all twelve, everything else. But there are some that I think a little, are more precious to you than others and for me it’s the Fourth Step and the Eleventh Tradition. I’m going to kind of take these as they are. The item of “based on attraction rather than promotion.” I struggle with that one, because I think we all look at people and say, ‘Boy, they could really use some help here.’ Bill Clinton, Tiger Woods, whatever. But there are lots of people out there who suffer and the fixer in me wants to say, ‘Can’t we just say to them, “Come on in,” and we’ll help them?’” But people really, really, really do have to get to the point where they’re ready and I think that’s important. When I came into the program, I was in a... I had dug the hole and I kept digging and I had kept digging and I had kept digging and finally the powers that be said, ‘Stop digging that hole or you’re in deep trouble.’ And I had to find something and I did it like probably a lot of you did. I looked online under sex addiction and there it was. That’s how I found the Program. I walked into my first meeting scared to death, because I knew I was the worst person there and as it turns out, I was just another bozo on the bus. So I still don’t know exactly how I feel about attraction rather than promotion, but that’s because I am an addict. I want to fix you and you and you. And I’ve tried to get to the point where I don’t believe that anymore. The second part of that is the press, T.V. and radio, et cetera, et cetera, and all I’m going to share about that is that we have a meeting in a very small town in Massachusetts in the central part of the state. We had a guy come in and was there and we were like, ‘Okay,’ I mean, we’re always happy to have somebody new, because they’re there and they need something. And the guy, once he talked, we felt that he needed to be here and what have you. The second week he came, we found out that he worked for, what’s called the Worcester magazine, it’s the paper that comes in your newspaper every week and then I became, no addict is paranoid, but of course I was. I expected, here comes our names in the paper. But the guy is an addict and he’s been a wonderful addition to the meeting. But it’s scary. And we have people in our area who are in service positions where people, if they saw their name in the paper, would definitely not be happy. Teachers, clergymen, what have you, and that’s all we could imagine was, ‘Oh, boy. Here we go.’ So that’s what I take away. And so therefore, I’m very careful about anything to do with the media and I tend to think the worst case scenario in that regard, but I try to listen open-mindedly and figure out, ‘Well, is this something we ought to consider?’ But I would say in the very few times that we have talked about it at the Intergroup, I have always voted no because I just, I couldn’t guarantee anything. So I would rather have anonymity for the members than even remotely have any possibility of giving up their anonymity. So, thank you.”

Martina A. – “Martina. Sex and love addict. This Tradition makes me think about our relations with the public. I actually did quite a lot of thinking about that and I noticed that Tradition Eleven is not the only Tradition that deals with various aspects of our relations with the public. We have Traditions that deal

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with the primary target of our relations with the public. That is the addict who is still suffering, who still suffers. Traditions Three and Five and then there's other Traditions, for example, Tradition Six, which deals with our relations with related facilities and outside organizations and so forth. Tradition Eleven, to me, is really the cornerstone of our way of dealing, that explains how we should deal with the public. And when I first read this Tradition, I kind of felt, 'Well, this is really kind of boring. It's actually very self-explanatory.' But then I did some more research on this and then I found it actually to be quite intriguing. I think what Tradition Eleven tells us is that Public Relations is important. It's very important. We're not a secret society. This Tradition does not speak to Fellowship anonymity, only to personal anonymity and we have, our job is to carry the message. It's really, really important. So we need to find ways of making ourselves known, but the trick is, the deal is not to do it in a way that makes it promotional. So public relations work must be done well and it is done well whenever it is not promotion and there are various ways of doing that. One of them was pointed out earlier during the discussion. I think it's, I'm thinking of a particular example here. I was wondering, 'How can I apply this to my life as a sex and love addict in Germany?' I once attended an outreach effort organized by the German Fellowship to a rehab in Bavaria, which based on the Twelve Steps and the first thing we did is we went as a group. I would never want to do this on my own. I do not want to be seen as a spokesperson of S.L.A.A. or as me personally representing S.L.A.A. So I think we followed Tradition Eleven there. And then what happened was we had a guy with us who we didn't know very well and he made some very inappropriate remarks on the train, really very inappropriate and we were all shocked. So we took a group conscience and we decided to ask him not to be with us, not to represent us. And I felt really sorry for him, but I think it was important that we did that, because we had no idea of knowing what he was going to talk about. And this was a room packed of, it was packed. It was beautiful. It was all snowed in and I had just moved to Germany, just six months in Germany and it was beautiful. And I think we did a really nice job. I talked about sponsorship. Sponsorship is not really big in Germany. Many people don't have sponsors and I noticed it was wonderful. I saw the eyes of women in the audience lighting up and they came to me afterwards and it was amazing. So I think we really follow Tradition Eleven. And the other thing is, how do we make our outreach efforts non-promotional? Well, we're not supposed to use celebrities as spokespersons. We know that that can go very wrong. What if the celebrity relapses? That will reflect very badly on us. We're not supposed to use single members of S.L.A.A. as spokespersons. And I think what I find so interesting about this is how do we make S.L.A.A. attractive? I think the biggest attraction is a member who is sober and who shows recovery at work in his or her daily life. I think that's the biggest attraction. It's not about me showing to the public how wonderful I am, how great I am. I am just a humble, recovering addict. When somebody wants to know about the Program, I explain it in simple terms, clear terms, how the Program works. 'If you're interested, let me know.' But I don't make any exaggerated claims about the Program and make a big fuss or make myself a messiah of S.L.A.A. So that's, to me, what's intriguing, to show how this Program works. I think I can actually show it wherever I go. Whatever I do, I think my Higher Power will, if I do the work, will use me. I'm thinking of my work place, for example. I happen to have a very attractive boss. He could easily pass as an actor. I work very closely with him and I remember when I joined the institute, a colleague told me, 'All the girls are in love with him.' And I'm a pro sex and love addict in recovery. I know how to deal with this. I know how to set boundaries. I know how to behave. I'm not going to flirt with him. I'm fine. It's a miracle. I'm absolutely fine. Who knows? Maybe one of these women there, I mean, who knows what God uses me for? So in concluding, I think Tradition Eleven is really very fascinating, very interesting and feel free to ask questions. Thank you."

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Sue B. – “Hi, I’m Sue. Grateful recovering sex and love addict. Tradition Eleven. I think I shared the other night, I came into recovery, I watched a television program by a well-known weather girl in the UK, a program called, ‘Am I a Sex Addict.’ Because I didn’t know anything about this addiction at all and it was through watching that TV program and then looking on the internet that I found out about S.L.A.A. Came to meetings in my home town, there weren’t many meetings and there weren’t many people who were attending. And probably about six or twelve months into the program I used to sit in the room and think, ‘Well, where is everybody? There’s so many more people out there. Why aren’t they in here?’ And started taking lots of inventories of people and seeing other stuff in other people and started getting these really bright ideas of, ‘Maybe I should do some magazine interviews. Maybe I should do a TV documentary.’ All this ego-filled stuff. Thankfully, there’s a couple of good people in my meetings who, we used to do, go for coffee after and I used to talk about this and why weren’t more people here and do people go and do interviews and things and it was kind of like, ‘No, no, no. Don’t go and do any of that.’ And I was like, ‘Well, why not? How do people get to know about it?’ And everyone was just, it was like, ‘You just tell people your story.’ And I was stuck there thinking, ‘Well, how does that happen? Do I just walk down the street and bump into people and, “Hey, let me tell you my story about being a sex and love addict?”’ That’s obviously where my mind was. And I’ve realized over time, it took me quite a long time to understand all these Traditions and how they are there to protect us. Lower the ego, get rid of the ego. And just as people shared earlier on, in the previous session, I think it was, about a couple of people have been involved with the media and the consequences thereof. And that’s, I think, why this Tradition is also to protect our anonymity at that level, because once it’s out there in the media, you’ve got no control what those people are going to do with it and who’s going to see it, who’s going to know you. Generally, media likes sensationalist stories. They want to sell papers. They want to make money off TV programs. And for me, that’s not what this Fellowship is about at all. It takes people’s lives. It really does and we need to remember that and protect people and keep the anonymity of the people in this fellowship and that keeps people safe. It lets people know this is a safe place for them to come to get recovery. They’re not going to be exposed. People aren’t going to find out if they don’t want people to find out. So it’s just really important to remember that and why we are an anonymous Fellowship. I kind of had a lot more to say, but I think I’ll leave it there for now. Thank you.”

Questions and Answers:

Q – Why on earth would you want to be on the Board of Trustees of The Augustine Fellowship, Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, Inc.?

Sue B. – “After yesterday, where people were stepping down and there was all the stuff about not having extra Board members and the amount of work to do, yesterday I kind of thought, ‘Well, should I withdraw now or still go ahead?’ Yeah. To answer a bit more seriously, for me personally, I think it’s going to be really good to have representation at this level from the U.K., from somebody outside of the U.S.A. Yeah, I don’t know. It sounds a bit of a cliché thing, but I just feel that this is where my Higher Power’s taking me to. Giving back what I freely receive, that’s what it’s all about and I’ve got so much from this Program. I really, honestly, probably wouldn’t be here if it wasn’t for this Fellowship, so whatever I can do to carry the message and be of service, I’m willing to do. Thank you.”

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Martina A. – “Martina. Sex and love addict. I’m convinced that my Higher Power wants me to do this. I think I’ve been set on a certain path ever since I joined the ABM last year. I remember, last year it was very difficult for me, because I’m an anorectic, and I left with a very bad feeling in my stomach about my anorexia. But then, during the last year, things changed dramatically. I started to assume a lot of service tasks. I noticed how much I enjoy doing this. I realized it’s not a burden. I saw that service work is energizing, rather than like the normal work I do when I go to work. Of course I’m tired in the evening, but that’s what I do. I go to work and I’m a very hard worker. Very compulsive. I work very hard, but then I come home and I eat and then I switch on my laptop and I do service work. That’s my life. I like the Board members a lot on a personal level. That’s a reason. I also like how professional they are. I’m very impressed by that. I do management. I’m a manager myself and so I’m interested, professionally, in what the Board members are doing and I think that will stimulate my work at my workplace as well. So, yeah, but basically, I believe it’s my Higher Power who has led me to sit here today.”

Bob G. – “Mine is an easy answer for me, because I know exactly why. My first sponsor had many, many, many years of sobriety. I came into the Program on one night and noticed him sitting across the room and I knew he was, I knew I was going to ask him to be my sponsor at that point. He was an ex-Marine, which means that I was not exactly treated with kid gloves, but I didn’t need to be treated with kid gloves. But what I learned from him, because every Tuesday and Thursday night he used to sit at Dunkin’ Donuts and he had appointments with people every half hour to go over this addiction, A.A., a couple of other things and I admired that. I was just like, ‘How can you put in that much time?’ A couple years into my recovery, he committed suicide, because he had forgotten that reaching out to others when he’s having problems was what you have to do. And so I realized this program does kill people. This, I’m sorry, this sickness. Not this program. Sorry. This illness does kill people. I was lucky not to be in jail. I was lucky not to be dead and if I had continued I would be. So I owe a lot to this program. There was a point at one place where I said, because they were asking me for my local level to serve on the Intergroup and I went, ‘No. I’m not about to do that because I don’t want to.’ But I knew I had to give back what I was given and I don’t have the skills that Gavin had. So I have to do what I can do. I have professional skills that fit and I went ahead and went on the Intergroup. Somewhere along the line, somebody said, ‘Hey, there’s this Board Committee. You want to try, you want to see what you can do with that?’ And I think, between the two, I’ve grown to love my service, because I know it’s what I can do. So here I am.”

Q – I noticed in one of the write-ups that the delegate of the German-speaking S.L.A.A. group at the ABM 2012 was nominated for another two years in the spring of 2013 and I just would like you to address that.

Martina A. – “Thank you. Well, I will go back to Germany and I will send an e-mail to the Intergroup representatives and very proudly tell them that, if you elect me, I am now a member of the Board and that unfortunately, I will have to step down as a delegate.”

Q – I’d like to hear what the three of you have planned to try to keep the service work from becoming your next addiction.

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Bob G. – “My wife and I actually discussed this, because she knows that I’m a workaholic, so we are going to take at least two days every week that I do not do any work, no matter what. And that made her happy, that made me happy and you’re right. I could see myself quickly being one of those, being a forty-hour, full-time employee like Rita, and I don’t want to have that happen.”

Martina A. – “Martina. Sex and love addict. I just finished reading a book before I came to the ABM. It’s called, ‘Love Focused.’ It’s about the fact that my Higher Power, all my Higher Power wants me to do is love him and love others. And then the book is all about what stands between that and one of them is perfectionism and the chapter dealt with perfectionism at length and in detail and I found out that I’m a performance perfectionist which sometimes can be very agonizing, but I’m aware of that. I also recently started therapy to deal with my work issues. I do really work a lot, even if I’m tired, but I’m in recovery, I’m aware of it and I’m sure it will be fine. I will be able to produce, in a healthy way, hopefully. I mean, on the other hand, it’s good for you that I don’t procrastinate. It’s a very good question and thank you.”

Sue B. – “Hi. Sue. Sex and love addict. I’m aware that service work could take over, but I’ve been really quite good with that in the past. Just, it’s all about the recovery-life-work balance. That’s really important. I’ve learned through this program about boundaries and one of those is being around work. I’ve become very good with boundaries within my full-time job, as in I don’t do any overtime anymore. I work my contracted hours. I take my lunch break. And that’s kind of how it’s going to be doing this level of service. There will be work to do, but it’s making sure that I have a break. Do take my self-care. Do nice things as well. Because it’s no good getting burnt out. I wouldn’t be of use to anybody, doing that. So I’m aware it could become, as you said, I think, the next addiction, but I’ve got all the tools of recovery. I’ve got a sponsor. I’ve got trusted people in the Fellowship who would definitely, if they saw that would, would point it out in a, maybe not-so-gentle way, some of them, but they’d point it out. So I think I’ll be okay. Thanks.”

Q – I want to know what some of your favorite tools of recovery are.

Sue B. – “Sue. Sex and love addict. Asking for help when I need help, definitely. Asking for clarification on things. I’ve got my sponsor. Trusted people that I speak to. I still work my steps. I’m about to start those again soon with a different focus. I can’t say I’ve got any other specific things, it’s just working the program around doing service. Thanks.”

Martina A. – “Well, for me the most important tool is prayer. It’s the most important tool. It’s above all other tools. I need morning mediation. I just talked to my sponsor and if I don’t do morning meditation, it’s like walking on broken glass. So I really want to do more of my morning meditation. I just was told how to do it better and I’m looking forward to that. So that’s really a very important goal for me, to really do my morning meditation in the morning. As far as stress is concerned, I’m used to this. I’m in science management. You have no idea. Every day is crazy. I brought my laptop from Germany with me and I didn’t have time to answer the e-mails today, even though I’m on vacation. I don’t want to know what, when I open that e-mail account tomorrow, what kind of e-mails I’ll find there. So I think I’m quite stress-resistant. I know it’s going to happen. And I also like to do some workout. Nature. I like to ride the bicycle and run

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and meet friends. Go to meetings. Go to online meetings. Talk to my sponsor. Work the Steps. Thank you.”

Bob G. – “And I’m Bob. Sex and love addict. My primary tool at this point and it was the eight hundred pound thing that I had to learn to pick up when I first came into the program was my telephone. My cell phone had, it was a minimal plan that I was on. That had to change after the first couple of years and then it went nuts and finally we went to the unlimited everything, everything plan, because my sponsor and I contact each other not less than once a day. Last year, and we kept up with it for a year, because we wanted to know. Last year we had forty thousand texts between us. So that’s a big deal to me. I have also learned to trust other members of our area groups and reach out to them when my sponsor’s not available. And that’s important, because I think a lot of people don’t remember that. What you do when the person you call isn’t available? So I do reach out and that’s a big deal for me. My ‘Answers in the Heart’ book, I had to replace this year, because it was, it had ended its useful life at that point. So meditation is very important to me. I was reminded of a mis-speak at one of our meetings where somebody was reading one of the steps and said, ‘Sought through prayer and medication to,’ so forth and...I take my meds. I’m a depressive, so I take them. I don’t miss them. Stress, I’ve got to tell you, for those who read the A.A. promises at their meetings, in the past year-and-a-half, I have started actually seeing some of those come true. And when I recognized it for the first time, it was important. What I’ve tried to do with anxiety and fear is look at it. I had a therapist who taught me, finally, I’m a two-by-four learner. You hit me in the head with a two-by-four, I probably will pick it up, but maybe. Anyway, she taught me to, if I’m fearing something or if I’m anxious about something, put it down, ask yourself what’s real and what’s not real and then go from there. So I think I’m okay with stress. When I disagreed with stuff on the BFOC, I said it and nobody shot me and I thought that was great, because, ‘Love me, please.’ Anyway, thank you.”

Q – At the end of your term, what would you like us to think about you as looking back on your term?

Bob G. – “I think it’s, I want people to look at it and say, ‘He didn’t sit there. He did something and there were some accomplishments and that the Fellowship is in a better place than when he came in.’ And I think it’s possible. I recently passed my Enrolled Agent exam, so I now represent people before the IRS and if you can handle that, you can handle anything. And I do good in their lives and I think I can do the same thing here. I’ve got skills and the subsets of skills that I think are necessary to do that and I just want people to say, ‘Yeah, he made a difference.’ Not to me, necessarily, but just in their hearts. Okay?”

Martina A. – “Well, I’m powerless over what other people think about me. I just want to help the organization. Help make the ..., help run it more smoothly. I want to be of use. I want to be helpful. I would like to give my input. I do believe I have some gifts that the Lord gave me that may be of use. I am a humble person. I’m not, I just want to make myself useful as best as I can. And I hope that people recognize that, but as I said, I’m powerless over what other people think. Thank you.”

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Sue B. – “That kind of just triggered my people-pleasing. No pressure. Got to do a good job! Thanks for that. I can only do what I can do. I’m a human being, after all. My aim is to do a good job. Do the best I can do with whatever comes up. I guess you don’t know anything about a job until you do it. So, you all sat there now thinking, ‘These people are up for going on the BOT,’ and it might be you next year or sometime so all I can say is I’m, I put myself forward to do this, because I think I’ll do a good job. If it gets to a point where I’m not doing a good job, then I’ll step down. Thanks.”

The election process was described for tomorrow.

Following announcements, the General Assembly was adjourned at 5:15 PM for a break and dinner to be followed by free time for visiting area attractions, the F.W.S. Office, and a meeting hosted by the San Antonio Intergroup.

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Friday, August 9, 2013 8:00 A.M.

General Assembly – Friday, August 9, 2013 – 8:00 A.M. – BOT Elections

Facilitator – Rick S.; Assistant Facilitator – Andrew H.; Backup Facilitator – Gabriel G.

There were 38 of 38 voting members present.

The quorum was met.

The meeting began with the Serenity Prayer.

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 facilitator. 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 and the facilitator left to count the ballots. The Assistant Facilitator took over the proceedings while votes were being counted.

Andrew H., Assistant Facilitator spoke about conference committee forms in the appendix of the ABM Binder. The process for filling out these forms was described as well as the process for turning in the forms. There was a reminder about completing the TEF form.

The vote counters and Facilitator returned and the results of the election were announced:

Elected to full 3 year terms were Bob G., Martina A. and Sue B.

The Assistant Facilitator gave additional information on conference committee procedures.

Time was given for questions and comments:

- There are many individuals on the CTC list that have not been present for some time. Should these people remain on the list? Contact these individuals to see if they still want to be on the list.
- Could we get a listing of the conference call numbers? Would prefer that conference call numbers not be widely circulated. In final assembly this year, chairs will be required to give details on their committees. Conference call numbers are not for the fellowship at large.
- The process for making committee reports during the final assembly was described.
- How do you make sure that someone's name gets on the conference committee member list? Let the Office know. It can be updated throughout the year.
- If a committee budget needs changes throughout the year, the CFC can be contacted about this.
- The Conference Chair's Call was described.
- Are there extra budget forms? Can get with Lisa in the Office to make copies, or you can ask a delegate who is not a chair for the copy from their binder.
- It was further described as to what committees should be doing in their final meetings today.
- The CPIC is not on the schedule to meet today. This was an oversight and the committee can meet in the main assembly room.
- Do committees elect a new chair and vice-chair each year? Yes. This can be done either at the ABM or in the first meeting after the ABM. Some committees did so before the ABM.

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- Could someone explain more about Google Groups? The Office has information on the Google Groups if the chair cannot be contacted. If passwords are needed, the Office is also an owner of the Google Group and can provide this.
- The Office is made a non-e-mail receiving member of the Google Group so institutional memory can continue.
- Committee members can be sent an invitation to join the Google Group.
- The process for signing up for a Google account was explained to become a member of a Google Group.
- Referred to appendix in the ABM binder about obtaining e-mail addresses. There is a policy about this. The website does not put any personal names or e-mail addresses on its website.
- The BOT liaison should be an Owner of the Google Group in addition to the committee chair, vice-chair and the Office.
- Conference members were directed to the portion of the CSM describing how business is conducted between ABMs as well as the portion describing conference committee support.

It was announced that the session would end early as business was finished for the session. After announcements, the General Assembly adjourned at 9:00 A.M. for a break, Conference Committee Meetings and lunch. The final General Assembly would resume at 2:15 P.M.

General Assembly – Friday, August 9, 2013 – 2:15 P.M.

Facilitator – Jack S.; Assistant Facilitator – Susan G.; Backup Facilitator – Mark H.; Time Keeper – Andrew H.; Vote Counters – Mark W. and Conrad G.

There were 36 members present for this meeting.

The quorum was met.

The BOT Chair, Susan G., announced the chairs of the BOT Committees:

BFOC/Finance Chair – Steve B.

BFOC/Operations Chair – Bob G.

BPRC Chair – Rick B.

BGNC Chair Tom F.

Susan then went on to announce the BOT Liaisons to Conference Committees:

CAC – Martina A.

CBC – Rick B.

CCC – Steve B.

CCAC – (inactive) Rick B.

CDC – Sue B.

CFC – Bob G.

CHRC – Sue B.

CIFC – Bob G.

CICC – Rick B.

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CIC – Steve B.
CJC – Rick B.
CLC – Steve B.
CMRBOTC – Tom F.
CMRC – Tom F.
CPOC – Bob G.
CPIC – Rick B.
CSC – Sue B.
CSPC – Martina A.
CSTC – Bob G.
CTC – Martina A.

It was announced that the 2014 ABC/M will be held in Houston Texas.

Committee reports:

CAC – Kelli H. (standing in for chair). Will be electing a chair at first meeting after ABM. The CAC has drafted a new mission statement. Meet on the fourth Sunday of the month at 11:00 A.M. Pacific Standard Time. The CAC will be implementing conference feedback on the “What is Anorexia?” document, continuing to work on the “Anorexia 4-5-6-7 booklet” and completing a draft on the “Anorexia Recovery Tools” document. Other projects include working with the CJC to create “Questions of the Day” with a focus on anorexia recovery and compiling a list of anorexia resources available on the F.W.S. website.

CBC – inactive

CCC – Jack S. (Chair) – The CCC will be meeting for the first time after the ABM on the first Sunday of September at 12:30. They will be electing a new chair and new ARS editor.

CCAC – No report.

CFC – Mark H. (Chair) – The CFC will be considering conference committee budget requests. They will also be focusing on fundraising and how to increase contributions to the Fellowship.

CHRC – Pam M. (Chair) – Will be meeting on the first Sunday of the month at 3:00 P.M. Central Standard Time. The CHRC will be focusing on a booklet on “Tools for Maintaining a Healthy Relationship,” a guide for making a dating plan and creating a booklet about looking at healthy relationships through the twelve signs of recovery.

CIFC – Jay G. (OH) (Chair) – The CIFC will be looking at their mission statement with the possibility of removing the reference to “S” fellowships and including other fellowships. Will continue to disseminate information about cooperation with other fellowships. Will maintain relationship with the Inter-Fellowship Forum.

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CDC – Steve L. (Chair) – Meets the first Sunday of the month at 8:30 A.M. Pacific Standard Time. Projects will include revamping the Diversity Statement, putting the Diversity Awareness Questionnaire on the F.W.S. website and a Diversity pamphlet.

CICC – Elizabeth P. (Co-Chair) – The CICC will be creating a list of contact information for all Intergroups they can find. They will be creating an introduction letter to send to everyone on that list. They will also be working on developing mentor opportunities for Intergroups that are struggling. The CICC meets the first Sunday of the month at 7:00 P.M.

CIC – Markis C. (Co-Chair) – The name of the committee is being changed to the Conference Information Technology Committee. They will be working on a Facebook page and possibly a secret Facebook group. Will be trying to create a one-stop page for all technology meetings. Will be meeting via Google Group instead of having phone conferences for now.

CJC – Lisa C. (standing in for Chair) – Projects include: Diversity issue, Multi-language issue, e-version, back-issues, a 2015 calendar, focus pamphlets on anorexia, poetry, and the Eleventh Step. The CJC is asking for \$1,300 for the year. The CJC will be meeting the first Saturday of the month at 3:00 P.M. Pacific Standard Time.

CLC – Lisa C. (Vice-Chair) – Have asked for a budget of \$5,000. The “Twelve and Twelve” book project needs a technical assistant through the F.W.S. office, making up the bulk of the budget request. Also included as part of the budget request are the Stories Book Project, the literature drafts and teleconference needs. The CLC meets on the third Saturday of every month at 7:30 A.M. Pacific Standard Time.

CMRC – Markis C. (currently no chair) – The CMRC meets on the third Sunday of every month at 11:00 A.M. Pacific Standard Time. Planning on reaching out to members who have not been attending for a while. Will be using their phone list as a better utilization tool. Will also be working on coming up with retention tools similar to the CPIC’s suggestion list.

CPOC – Monique S. (standing in for chair). The CPOC is also a resource for members who are attempting outreach. The CPOC will continue to respond to inmates who ask for information. There is a core group of members who act as pen pals, but they always need more volunteers. Encourage Intergroups to make prison outreach a part of their work. Will be updating old outreach materials. New vice-chair is training to become committee chair next year. Have requested a budget of \$1,250 for literature and postage. Meets on the first Saturday of the month at 7:00 P.M. Eastern time.

CPIC – Monique S. (co-chair) – The CPIC will be continuing the projects from the last year. Budget request is \$650. Part of this is for calling cards for one member to call in internationally. The CPIC is still working on videos and a resource kit for the membership. Will be uploading information on to the committee website. Will also be putting the suggestions for public outreach through the proper CLC procedure to be conference approved. Meets the third Sunday of every month at 4:30 P.M. Eastern time.

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CMRBOTC – No report.

CSC – Conrad G. (chair) – Will be going forward with a service newsletter. A prototype pamphlet was produced and distributed at the ABM. Asked for feedback to be sent to the CSC webpage. The CSC meets on the first Saturday of every month at 8:00 A.M. Pacific Standard Time. Asking for a budget of \$675. This is for an e-mail distribution service, international phone costs, copies and postage.

CSPC – Martina A. (outgoing chair) – The CSPC will be electing a new chair as soon as possible. They meet on the first Saturday of the month at 11:00 A.M. Pacific Standard Time. One project they will be working on is the long-distance sponsorship program. The CSPC is requesting \$2,000 budget. Have talked about a tele-series on sponsorship.

CSTC – No report.

CTC – Fredrik L. (chair) – The position of vice-chair is currently vacant. The two main projects of the committee are the translation guidelines booklet and the multi-language issue of the Journal. Hope to have a draft ready of the translation guidelines book in six months and have something to present for the next ABM. Will continued the Motion passed due to work with the CJC on the multi-language issue. The CTC has requested a budget of \$200. Most of this cost includes making calls. The CTC currently meets over Skype. Meet every fourth Sunday of the month at 9:00 A.M. Pacific Standard Time.

A Motion was made to confirm the 20 Conference Committees. The Motion was seconded.

Vote was 36-0-0.

Motion passes

Gratitude was expressed by the CCC chair for the work done this year and the ABM closed at 2:57 P.M. with the Serenity Prayer.