

**The Augustine Fellowship, S.L.A.A.,
Fellowship-Wide Services, Inc.**

**2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas**

Conference Theme: The First Tradition: Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon S.L.A.A. unity.

Abbreviations:

ABC/M Annual Business Conference/Meeting
BOT Board of Trustees
CSM Conference Service Manual
F.W.S. Fellowship-Wide Services
GM General Manager
IFD Item for Discussion

Conference Committees

CAC Conference Anorexia Committee
CBC Conference By-Laws Committee
CCC Conference Charter Committee
CDC Conference Diversity Committee
CFC Conference Finance Committee
CHRC Conference Healthy Relationships Committee
CICC Conference Intergroup Communication Committee
CJC Conference Journal Committee
CLC Conference Literature Committee
CMRC Conference Members Retention Committee
CPIC Conference Public Information Committee
CPOC Conference Prison Outreach Committee (re-designated CHIC – Conference Hospital and Institutions Committee)
CSC Conference Service Committee
CSPC Conference Sponsorship Committee
CSTC Conference Steps, Traditions and Concepts Committee
CTC Conference Translation Committee

[Comments in square brackets are explanatory notes from the Recorder.]

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

Tuesday, August 4, 2015

General Assembly: Tuesday, August 4th – 1:05 PM

Phillip W., Facilitator; Steve B., Assistant Facilitator; Roger R., Back-up facilitator
Curtis B., Record Keeper

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM. The members of the BOT, staff, and Conference Chair Committee were introduced. The Facilitator reviewed the ground rules of the meeting. Wear your nametag; don't record the meeting; silence cell phones. The theme of the ABC/M is the First Tradition. We expect the schedule to change. The contents of the binder provided to delegates were reviewed. A complete index of motions from prior years is included, as well as the By-Laws and a list of Conference Committees.

The contents of the supplemental binder, also provided to Delegates, was reviewed. The survey is particularly important - identify what you did, and did not like. A new document on anonymity and the law is important. Please order literature early during the Conference. Information on the eBook and Journal is included. The packet also contains a sample Journal, and three pamphlets (two from AA).

The delegates were reminded about the voting procedure. Make sure you check in with the General Manager, Pam Martin, for each session to ensure we have a quorum. The BOT election is Friday morning. There was also a reminder about the Conference Committee meetings scheduled. Room assignments will be forthcoming.

Announcements

Q and A:

[In this and subsequent question periods, 'Q' means Question, 'A' means Answer, 'C' is a comment not in the form of a question.]

Q: Please explain the timing to submit agenda item on motions.

A: Motions or discussion items for this year may be submitted until 7 PM tonight.

Q: Can we get hard copies of the ABM Agenda?

A: They can be printed. Please note that there is an electronic binder available (tinyurl.com/2015binder) and Drop Box.

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

The session was adjourned at 2:05.

General Assembly: Tuesday, August 4th – 2:20 PM

Roger R., Facilitator; Cielito P., Assistant Facilitator; Madeline S., Backup Facilitator
Curtis B., Record Keeper

Getting to Know the BOT/FWS Office

Steve B. began the discussions by noting that he is the BOT chair this year. He lives in Ft. Lauderdale. He has been in the program 8 years, and has been sober eight years on his original bottom line. He started as a delegate, and then served on Conference Committees. Eventually he was appointed to the old Board Finance and Operating Committee (BFOC). He has been on the Board 4 years, and has been Chair one.

Rick B. began his service in 2008, and then in 2009 he worked the ABM. He then was a delegate, and a Board committee member. He was elected as a BOT replacement, and then reelected. A.A. saved his life. S.L.A.A. made life worth living.

Bob G. stated that the program saved his life. He began his service in New England Intergroup, and was soon Treasurer. He attended the ABM in 2010. He finds service enjoyable. He was on BFOC (now Finance); the BOT. He is now the Treasurer. It's less a challenge, and more a love. He suggested the Delegates consider Board committees - they are both work and fun.

Susan G. is both a sex and love addict and anorexic. Her key date is April 18th, 2006. She contemplated suicide and homicide. Service is sobering. It takes things off her plate. She first joined the Conference Sponsorship Committee, then became the chair. Then she was on the Finance Committee and the BOT. She's now been on the Board 3 years. She is happy to be here. It's very exciting to see so many countries involved, and to learn what's happening there.

Jack S. names April 29, 1999 as his key date. He had been in jail; the date is chosen to match his mother's death. Jack said that he came to S.L.A.A. looking for the expressway, and found the service road. His Intergroup does a lot of roundups. He is the IRC chair, and joined the Board to help out there. "It's a joy for me."

Office Staff:

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

Pam Martin has been GM almost two years. She moved to San Antonio, and almost immediately got the GM job. It's great job. "I get to look forward to going to work today." She gets great thank-you notes from members.

Pamela Tillman was hired as bookkeeper in 2011. She is glad to be here.

Beth S. is a member of the program and is the Webmaster. Another fellowship tried to hire her. She has been Webmaster 8 years, and sober 10 years. She got interested in websites from an interest in video games. She feels blessed to work with S.L.A.A.

Jack added that his wife (a delegate) provides spiritual help, and he pushes her to service.

Board Question and Answer:

Q: The Bylaws require the BOT to consult with the Conference. Two issues are identified: the Strategic Plan and an overlap of the new BOT committees with some of the Conference committees. Why weren't they brought to the Conference?

A: The Committees were formed after the By Law changes allowing that. The Strategic Plan was presented at the last ABM. Committee name changes are not significant. The Board has been open and up front. They fill the BOT as required, and as people are available. Note: the board restructure does not affect the Fellowship. Most Board members are appointed, then re-elected.

Q: Would it have been better to bring Board candidates to the Conference?

A: No one has come forward. Jack, the last BOT selection, did not answer an invitation to join during the ABM. He had to talk to his sponsor and other supports. It is also noteworthy that many BOT members were appointed, then confirmed. It is a very clear process. The Strategic Plan is on the website. The BOT makes business decisions; it was getting off track, so hired a consultant. The By Laws do allow for appointment. It would be better if people came forward before the Conference. The Strategic Plan deals with the business arm of FWS. It allows the BOT to work more efficiently.

Q: Can dealings with F.W.S. be used against people? Another Fellowship deletes data. Can we delete data and not create a paper trail?

A: We are working on a privacy policy. We will be happy to discuss deletions with another Fellowship. Note: no one has to use a credit card. Federal law requires us to keep records. We are destroying electronic records as we can. We will be happy to look into this.

Q: Can we delete shipping data, especially? I'm concerned with outside persons "data mining" our information.

A: Purchases can now be made without having to set up an account. We are doing due diligence.

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

30 seconds

Q: Why are the Board committees organized the way they are? What is/does Outreach do?

A: We used to have 4 committees required by the By Laws. Now we have a Finance committee as the only required Committee. Outreach is the name of the committee that does much of the same work as the former Board Public Relations Committee (BPRC), including fielding media requests at national level. The Board committees do not override the Conference committees. They deal with National level issues.

Q: Other groups put out a letter before business meetings to recruit people to run for Board of Trustees. Do we?

A: We put out a flyer asking people to consider Board service that is always in the Quarterly Newsletters.

Q: Is the Strategic Plan available?

A: We are making changes to adjust the language more to that of a 12 Step program.

30 seconds

Q: Should the structure include a timekeeper and spiritual reminder?

A: Good idea. We are keeping time. Everyone is a spiritual reminder.

Q: What is the time commitment for the Board?

A: Steve: BOT chair facilitates BOT meetings and sits on other committees. The Chair also supervises the Office in San Antonio. I visit the Office when needed. How many hours do I spend per month? I don't know.

Rick B: The Outreach committee plus BOT meetings plus other meetings plus prep work are about 12 hours per month, plus or minus.

Bob: I'm a Gemini - Treasurer of FWS and the Corporation. I review all financial transactions and records. This is 1.5 hours per month. I have to be very careful. For liaison to committees - another hour each - it's 15 to 20 hours per month.

Susan: As Secretary, I review the Board minutes after the record keeper does them. Programs and Membership has 3 subcommittees, plus three Conference committees, and Outreach. Workload does need rebalancing.

Jack: I'm not a Committee chair. I am on two committees, and chair the IRC subcommittee. I estimate 10 to 12 hours per month.

Comment: Thank you for your service - BOT and staff that go the extra mile.

30 seconds

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

Break to 3:45

Announcements

The meeting called back to order at 3:45.

Finance Report – Bob G.

Bob G. is the Chair of the Board Finance Committee and the Treasurer of the FWS. His briefing is incorporated into this report in its entirety. Key points:

1. Donations are down slightly when compared to most years.
2. We are now a fully Texas Corporation (as of May 15).
3. We have lower inventory (means lower inventory costs) without impacting the Groups.
4. Shipping costs now equal shipping charges.
5. Income is down a little, and expenses are down as well, we are starting to build some surplus.
6. We funded the Conference Committees Budget at 100% of requests - the first time in years.
7. Reports are online.

Q: Can TEF forms be submitted later?

A: Yes, but earlier is better.

Q: Does TEF include cab fare costs?

A: No, the 500-mile radius is key.

Q: Why is shipping what it is?

A: It's less than ever. We use the middle USPS option - media mail has not worked well.

Q: What is in the Committee moneys?

A: Calls, fliers, what the Conference Committee will spend. The CCC chair can explain.

Q: Last year, the ABM passed an increase to the maximum contribution to FWS from \$12,000 to \$20,000, but the vote was not binding on the BOT. What is the status of this?

A: The BOT Chair had neglected to put it on the agenda, it will be dealt with soon.

Q: What is the plan to increase revenue?

A: There is no specific plan; we count on individuals and groups.

Q: A question on the website was postponed until tomorrow.

C: The Traditions call for us to be self-supporting.

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

Q: What is our cash position?

A: The numbers shown in the briefing will go down as ABM costs are paid. We do not have a plan for excess cash, the Finance Committee is working on that.

Q: An observation: we get 60% (round number) from sales; we are not really self-supporting from contributions. Should we consider ways to raise money?

A: The Board Finance Committee, as well as the Conference Finance Committee discusses ways to raise money. We could use more members. We could also use more Board members.

Q: Are our audit costs outside costs?

A: Yes.

Q: how is anonymity protected in an audit?

A: The auditor asks about sales, but we don't disclose names.

Q: Do we have records on who buys books? It would be good to have some details.

A: We do have details on international orders. If you don't tell us you exist, we don't know about you. We only sell English and Spanish literature. Other countries sell literature in their languages and pay a small royalty.

Q: Are donations down, in total?

A: yes, they are down \$18,000 from last year.

Note: we started a scholarship fund for non- North American Intergroups. We will provide \$500 to Netherlands, Australia, and 3 others.

Adjourn to 5:00 PM

Announcements

General Assembly: Tuesday, August 4th – 5:05 PM

Anthony P., Facilitator; Alan B., Assistant Facilitator
Curtis B., Record Keeper

Concepts Presentation

Rick B. briefed the Conference on Concepts Four, Five and Six.

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

Spiritual Principles for a Spiritual Fellowship.

Stability of the Fellowship depends on three legs, Steps, Traditions and Concepts.

Concept Four: Right of Participation. Everyone who is involved has a right to be part of discussions and vote. This is codified to make sure we stay democratic. Helps us be a part of rather than apart.

Concept Five: Right of Appeal. Relates to Tradition Two and makes us listen to the issues and talk things out and formulate Higher Power's will. Avoids a uniformed or angry majority.

Concept Six: Chief initiative and active responsibility with the Board. Conference gets all responsibility and authority to guide the fellowship and the Board deals with the business decisions; Board members focus on details.

Q and A:

Q: This appears to be a sequence of events. Is there appeal, minority voices, and to whom?

A: We are all trusted servants. Authority follows down.

Q: Will the Concepts change F.W.S.?

A: It may help us to stay on the rails. They will help keep the Fellowship healthy.

C: A challenge: take the Concepts back to the Intergroups. Questions are online for discussion. We can have Concepts discussion at Intergroups, as well as in Conference Committees.

Q: Alcoholics Anonymous has a group inventory. This could be useful. How do we use it?

A: You can use Group conscious to do what you want with A.A. materials.

Q: How can we recover from something in the media not feeling right? Our media interface is a cautionary tale.

A: Guidelines for media exist to help us.

C: The A.A. booklets can help. If you want to help with the similar S.L.A.A. book, tell us.

Board of Trustees Reports

Steve B. reported on the activities of the BOT. We restructured the Board Committees. The work is the same; we spread the work better. The BOT meets monthly. We keep no sensitive files on personal anonymity. He suggests you read the pamphlet Suggestions for Public Outreach. Steve thanked the BOT and non-BOT members of the Board Committees.

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

Susan B. reported on the Board Program and Membership committee. This committee was created at the last Conference. The Committee supports high quality programs including the website, and membership survey. We received only 400 surveys. We note that a lot of groups are not registered. How do we reach them? We are moving into a digital age - we will begin to use QR codes. We also need to mentor and develop volunteers. The role of social media is an issue. They are used to Facebook. We need to correct the typos in the Basic Text.

Steve B. reported on the progress of the HR/Personnel Committee in Chris D's absence. The Committee received monthly updates from the Office. We updated the Whistleblower policy. We wrote other personnel policies. We are working on a sexual harassment policy. There is more to come.

Rick B. reported on the Outreach Committee. We now have new Outreach call policy, and volunteer application. We reviewed the talking points.

Adjourned at 6PM.

General Assembly: Wednesday, August 5th – 8:00 a.m.

Gabriel G., Facilitator; Danette S., Assistant Facilitator, Nancy G., Back-Up Facilitator
Curtis B., Record Keeper; Matthew N., Timekeeper

Serenity prayer, Reading of the Steps (German); Traditions (Dutch); and Concepts.

Webmaster Presentation (Beth S.)

Highlight: We now have Core Documents in 19 languages.

Q: Can you send the questionnaire electronically? How do we access draft literature.

A: Draft literature cannot be freely available since it is not Conference approved. We are working to have draft literature area for Groups and Intergroups. Yes, we can send the questionnaire electronically.

C: The Conference Literature Committee has access to all draft literature.

C: Draft literature may not be ready for general view.

C: We might reach more people if we had a Webmaster by country. All members do not understand English. Reality: many sites means we reach more people.

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

Q: What is the status of our search engine presence?

A: We are frequently cited and linked to. We use SEO. Our next step is local sites.

Q: Can you emphasize local sites?

A: Many don't know what's on the site. It's not just the BOT. Note that other sites are independent. There is a lot to be done for Outreach. It is a good idea to cooperate with the Intergrups.

Q: How do you contact the Webmaster?

A: It used to be hard to contact the Webmaster. She is a contractor, not employee. Communicate with the Office, and receive permission to contact Beth.

Q: There is a disconnect between the Office and Groups. The Groups don't know what the Office does. How can we help improve awareness?

A: The binder has a lot of data. The effort filters up the triangle. Intergrups are key.

Q: Can we list the time the Committees meet?

A: Yes, that's a good idea.

Q: How do we 'brand' S.L.A.A.? An international message is needed. Could we have templates for users?

A: We did have templates once. Tech support is needed, and we have no resources for that. We do want to give information for recovery. It's a good idea to brand an introductory web site.

Q: What happens after the ABM?

A: Priority this year is the communication monster. We need to get data into our publications.

Office Overview

Pam Martin, General Manager

Highlights:

- 1) The briefing is available from Pam.
- 2) Last year we received 2651 orders: 1621 shipped, 114 International. We have 188 Journal subscribers, 73 eJournal.

Q: What is the error rate in shipments?

A: Less than 1%. No backorders yet.

C: Shipments are always on time!

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

Committee Reports

Conference Anorexia Committee: they are focused on new literature. We are reworking the 4-5-6 pamphlet. We are starting 7-9, then 10-12. We need to work on a method to connect the Anorexia groups.

Conference Charter Committee: this committee facilitates the ABM, and adjusts agenda times. We reviewed the minutes from last year.

Conference Finance Committee: each Committee prepares its own budget. The CFC reviews the inputs, consolidates them, and submits them to the BOT. The CFC allocates results to the Committees.

Conference Healthy Relationships Committee: the Committee has drafted a "Tools for Healthy Relationships" pamphlet. We also have it on the CD. We are looking for more members. We have data on healthy dating.

Conference Intergroup Committee: the Committee connects Intergroups to others. They are working to have the flow go both ways. Intergroups will have Google groups. The Committee is validating web site data.

Conference Journal Committee: They are working to ensure the journal and eJournal come out on time.

Conference Prison Outreach Committee: they are expanding to other types of institutions, including treatment centers. They are refreshing their database.

Conference Public Information Committee: The Committee provides materials and support to Intergroups, Groups, and International members. They are doing Outreach. This committee absorbed two other committees. The pamphlet Suggestions for Public Outreach is now available. Please share information with the CPIC. They are building resources.

Conference Service Committee: We have draft literature and would appreciate feedback. The Committee will focus on each one, one at a time. The Committee wants to produce a draft for the iPhone.

Conference Sponsorship Committee: There have been 245 contacts via the web site looking for long-distance sponsors. They receive a standard sponsorship letter and suggestions.

Conference Literature Committee: A subcommittee has a draft of the S.L.A.A. 12 and 12. The Committee can provide data.

**2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas**

General Assembly: Wednesday, August 5th – 2:15 p.m.

Steve B., Facilitator; Andrew H., Assistant Facilitator, Jay G., Back-Up Facilitator
Curtis B., Record Keeper; Jane B., Timekeeper; Madeline S., Spiritual Reminder, Jason S. and Cielito P.,
Vote Counters
A quorum was present.

The Assembly opened with the Serenity prayer.

15o01/14-03

[The contents to the motions and items for Discussion are found in the Agenda]

The motion was read to the Assembly.

Motion summarized:

The Conference hereby adopts the following suggested guidelines regarding safety in the program, to be used by groups and intergroups if they so choose.

“In S.L.A.A. we take the stand that it is not acceptable, or in line with our common welfare, that members use the program as an arena to commit criminal offenses such as sexual offenses, stalking or harassment against other members, during or between meetings. A requirement for membership is a willingness to recover, and a person who currently commits such offenses against any other member in S.L.A.A is not welcome to participate in our meetings. You who have previously assaulted someone in the program are welcome back after the assaults have stopped and when you are a reasonably safe participant in meetings. You then have a responsibility to adapt to the person you have violated and give him or her priority to meetings that are vital to that person’s recovery, if necessary by leaving those meetings permanently. In case the assaulted person reports the offenses to the police, you are recommended to play fair in a court process and if possible preserve the anonymity of the person you have assaulted.”

Committee comments on Agenda: none

No Committee Comments were made.

Pro: The health of S.L.A.A. depends on the health of meetings. San Diego had incidents, and they may sometimes need to exclude someone. An individual does have to show a desire to stop. This is judged by the meeting, not by the individual.

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

Comments limited to 2 minutes each.

Con: The UK Intergroup voted against this motion. The issue could be handled by the Traditions. There are the police for serious transgressions. A group could also handle the problem with group conscience. They voted to not add the statement. The UK has had issues with the police. We might consider a light optional statement. An individual can raise a hand if the individual feels unsafe. Another optional statement about people under 18 might be useful (they are not allowed in the UK).

Pro: The Office does get calls about this. Offenders may feel they don't have to leave. Victims may end up being the one having to leave.

Con: We already have guidelines – Anonymity and the Law. The Office advises contacting police for serious offenses. Concept 12 does not allow for personally punitive actions. A meeting has authority over others.

Pro: A safe haven does not include perpetrators. This adds guidance for those who need to support safety. It's harmless to enforce the topic of safety but doesn't require anything.

Con: We have seen inappropriate behavior, stalking and assaults. We called FWS and found no recourse. The language of the motion is too accusatory. It could be reworded. It's needed, but not appropriate. Go with a shorter version. Some language needed, this is not appropriate.

Pro: We do have sex offenders. We have called the police. It's nice to have specificity. It's also up to the elder statesmen.

Con: We liked the proposal, but we didn't like the shaming language. There is no indication where on the web site the notice would go. There is no real contact with the Fellowship at large.

Note: the standard practice is here Pro and three Con. The facilitator can allow more.

1st Vote:

Facilitator: Are there any questions on the voting procedure?

Q: Is a friendly amendment allowed?

A: Have you been given authority by the originator?

Q: No.

A: It cannot be "friendly" then.

(30 seconds)

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

1st vote: 22-21-3 (22 for, 21 against, 3 abstentions)

Pam noted that there are 46 allowed to vote.

The vote is not unanimous, there is a right to minority opinion.

Minority comments:

Con: This will come down to the Group to decide. Criminals should be handled by the police. It does violate anonymity.

C: There is a point of concern with the phrase 'criminal offense'. We should not use such shaming language.

C: This should have gone to Group level. It doesn't work.

Q: Is it possible to offer an amendment?

A: An amendment is possible, and it will require an up or down vote, following the process.

Second Vote:

Result: 12-31-3

There is a new minority.

Minority comments:

Pro: Guidelines can be ignored. Spiritual reminder can be tough. These are recommendations that help spread the word, and help the members.

Pro: We're here for addicts. Safety is paramount. This situation does occur. Consider this.

Third Vote:

Facilitator point out that a vote of two-thirds binds the BOT. If not, it does not.

Amendment: Delete "criminal" from the text of the motion.

Seconded.

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

This may extend the session, as the pro/con applies for the amendment. The time extension passes 33-5. Note: a quorum is present.

Pro: I favor the amendment – it is a suggested guideline, and can be ignored. The amendment removes a concern.

Con: The amendment does not do enough. The basic motion calls a spade a spade and identifies actions.

Pro: The amendment fixes some concerns and may be good enough to go forward.

Con: This amendment only fixes two words. It becomes another requirement for membership.

Pro: How is harassment criminal? It is threatening even if not criminal.

Con: This amendment does not make an important change.

Point of Clarification: Can the amendment have a friendly amendment to the amendment?

A: Yes.

Point of Clarification: Would this be considered (automatically) next year?

A: No.

Point of clarification: Is a motion to table in order?

A: Yes.

Motion to Table (up or down vote).

Seconded.

Point of Clarification: if the motion is tabled, it can come back as written or as the originator may provide changes.

Point of Clarification: This tables the whole motion.

Point of Clarification: We can't postpone the motion and contact the originator?

A: No.

Vote: 24-22. The Motion is tabled for next year.

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

Motion is tabled; there is no minority opinion process.

General Assembly: Wednesday, August 5th – 3:45 p.m.

Bob G., Facilitator; Juanita J., Assistant Facilitator, Phillip W., Back-Up Facilitator, Curtis B., Record Keeper; Jane B., Timekeeper; Madeline S., Spiritual Reminder, Jason S. and Cielito P., Vote Counters.

A quorum is present (45 of 47).

Rick B. noted that the floor is open for nominees to the Board of Trustees. Nominations will stay open 2 sessions.

A motion to skip the next break passed.

15o02/14-06

Motion Summarized:

1. The Conference Literature Committee (CLC) will select a member who it feels is the best member to act as a Representative to the ABC/M. That CLC Member is to be sent to the ABM every year to represent the CLC. This person will not be a delegate from an Intergroup.
2. F.W.S will pay all cost, i.e., housing, (double occupancy), meals, travel, and the cost of registration (as it would for the CCC Chair and the Journal Editor).
3. The CLC Representative does not require voting privileges.

Point of Clarification: please clarify the wording of statement 1 (IS versus IT as published)

Committee comments on Agenda: none

No Committee Comments were made.

Friendly amendment: propose changing “it” to “is” in statement 1 and “does” to “will” below that.

Originator (CLC): we accept the friendly amendment.

The motion is restated.

No Committee input.

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

Pro and Con:

Pro: Literature is important to members. Presence of the CLC is essential to answer questions.

Con: Where is the ceiling for paying for delegates? Is there a scholarship?

Pro: CLC members may or may not give the best answer. It is important to have the CLC represented at the ABM; new literature is important. The CLC is big enough to have a representative.

Con: I don't see the benefit to having a CLC representative. At what point do we draw the line?

Pro: Literature is foundational. There is also the financial aspect of the importance of literature to the FWS. This draws the line.

Con: This article is not well written/ it sounds like same representative forever.

Point of Clarification: is another friendly amendment allowed? [Not answered]

Point of Clarification: "obligated" is missing.

The motion was restated.

30 seconds

Vote: 25-16-4

Minority opinion:

Con: Arguments should be more quantitative. Why should we start now? We need actual proof, such as that the CLC was not represented and something happened.

Con: The Chair said that we needed a straight answer. This motion process is not clear. We don't need another representative until it's clarified.

Con: Where do we stop? The rationale is not strong enough.

Point of Clarification: What do we need to bind the BOT?

A: A two-thirds majority.

Vote: 18-19-8

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

There is a new minority.

Pro: Literature is unique. It ultimately comes through the CLC and then to the Conference. This is not setting a president. "Unique" means "pay for."

Pro: We need clarification by next year. We may not get an experienced representative. We need answers – write down the procedures, then send the best representative.

Pro: An international perspective: we don't consider FWS much. Literature is different. We have questions. Voting for principal, not process.

Point of Clarification: It is not material how long an individual has served on the Committee.

Vote: 25-15-5

Passed, but not two thirds, so it is not binding on the BOT.

Point of Clarification: What is the BOT role?

A: To decide if it should be implemented it will be on the BOT agenda in time to let the CLC know,

Point of Clarification: Will the representative be able to vote twice?

A: No. These are different responsibilities.

Point of Clarification: Board of Trustees vote as members of the Conference.

15n03/15-01

Motion read

Motion Summarized:

Article V, Section 4 of By-laws to be amended to substitute "*committee delegated with the task by the board with presenting nominations and conducting elections*" for the "*Board Governance and Nominating Committee.*"

Committee comments:

BOT: this clarifies the By Laws. There no longer is a BGNC. Note that there are three elections for BOT, and one confirmation and those Board members cannot participate in the process

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

Agenda Review Subcommittee (ARS): There is an oversight on the Agenda, this was submitted to ARS and returned by vote to the Board with suggestions. The Board amended and resubmitted.

Pro: This is a perfect example of the By Laws not being written in stone. Not a dramatic change.

Pro: This is a good thing; it's required.

Pro: Note that the Table of contents in the by Laws is being changed.

Vote: 44-0-1

Passes. This is group conscious, and is binding on the BOT.

15n05/15-03

IFD Summarized:

The Submitters wish that the Conference discusses the following aspects of providing literature to the Fellowship:

- The possibility of letting go of some or all copyright to S.L.A.A. texts,
- the extent of literature that is free to be reviewed with the objective of providing more literature free of charge, or at a lower cost,
- ways of addressing shipping costs to be reviewed with the objective of reducing the cost of literature for countries outside the United States,
- more literature to be available in electronic formats,
- alternatives to the use of copyright law - such as creative commons licenses - to be investigated so that more literature can be circulated electronically and without the need for charge.

Committee comments:

The Conference Public Information Committee is in favor of getting literature to the addict that still suffers, but is not in favor of giving up control.

Discussion:

Would be good to involve legal help on issue; There are lots of people out there who will not honor copyright.

What would happen if we gave up copyright? We could lose control. We had an issue with a YouTube audio recording of the Basic Texts. We work with the Intergroups who translate the literature.

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

There are financial issues. Note the financial report – we would have to figure out how to pay the bills. Tradition 7 means I need to pay for my own literature.

Motion put forward by Sweden as well. We want a license to print in the UK, but FWS would get the money. We need to have more data on this. We want it to be as easy as possible for a 12 step organization. This is less about copyright than recovery. Could we subsidize the costs internationally?

There is an impact in loss of finances. It affects getting the message out. We need to encourage ways to get literature overseas.

It costs money for literature and the ABM. It is likely that we would see inferior products. The Copyright/Translation Committee is working with the UK and others.

We need to be self-supporting. We don't limit who buys our literature. We could become dependent on large purchasers. Note that 64% of the budget is from literature. We need address this issue.

We can make the electronic format available – this reduces shipping costs. Can read A.A. literature on line. Are we selling 50% of literature overseas?

Copyright is the only thing we have. We are rich because we sell literature. We need to make changes for overseas, but no change to copyright.

We need to keep copyright. I understand the overseas issue – maybe we should have scholarships for overseas literature, or waive shipping costs. Whatever is more cost effective?

I agree with keeping the copyright. Relative of the US to International, we are lucky at \$17.55 a Basic Text. It costs the equivalent of \$65 USD, \$80 in Singapore money. Shipping costs are the key.

The message is important. We need to control the message. A copyright lawyer could help.

Facilitator: this IFD is closed. We may have a motion next year.

Clarification: We don't vote this year. We can submit a motion for next year.

Point of Clarification: How do we get a list of subcommittees?

A: It will be provided. The BOT is interested in this issue and is working it.

(Announcements)

Note: Before end of session, no floor nominations for the BOT election brought forth.

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

General Assembly: Thursday, August 6th – 8:10 a.m.

Rick B., Facilitator; Alan B., Assistant Facilitator, Wil C., Back-Up Facilitator,
Curtis B., Record Keeper; Kali V., Timekeeper; Steve B., Spiritual Reminder, Jane B. and Diane S., Vote
Counters

The session began with a moment of silence, the Serenity Prayer, and reading of the 12 Steps, 12
Traditions, and 12 Concepts.

15n06/15-04

(The IFD is read.)

IFD Summarized:

Literature Draft: Anorexia Recovery Tools

Committee input:

CAC: This started several years ago. Has been used by members and meetings. We would appreciate
feedback.

CLC: This is a valuable tool. It should be released to the Fellowship for review and feedback. The CAC has
worked hard.

I have concerns with the way this is presented. It makes anorexia apart from the rest of the Fellowship
who identify as Sex and Love Addicts and goes against First Tradition – We are all anorexia. Need to stay
away from terms like uniqueness.

Sponsorship is not used in a complete way, it is better to learn more discipline. No focus on character
defects behind anorexia. The draft misses the self-centeredness of anorexia.

The UK wants anorexia literature. It takes a long time to get approved. Some meetings rotate styles.
Anorexia is one case.

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

Our beginners meeting reads the 40 Questions every week. If we added anorexia terms, it could be overwhelming. Be careful about anorexia in the 40 Questions.

I support the literature. I'm not sure the label anorexia is right.

I agree with concept anorexia at core of disease, action is not in this literature. All Anorexia meetings in my Intergroup has folded. Feel multiple identifications weakens unity. We have a monthly Skype anorexia meeting. We need something that speaks to acting in. Intimacy void is part of the issue. Literature helps.

The document uses a lot of labels. Labels do not threaten us. It's good to have more literature with 'love addictive, love avoidant' included. Suggest adding 'love avoidance' in the title. It's more like what we're used to.

Life begins at the end of my comfort zone. Include something about needing to make ourselves uncomfortable versus avoidance. Anorexia is a challenge as a sponsor. I feel more like a therapist than a sponsor. We need a structured plan – a beneficial tool.

Anorexia used to be divisive topic. Now, we have a civil discussion and can provide more literature. "Hiding in my addiction' is a key. Looking forward to progress on anorexia literature.

Anorexia is on a continuum. Each of us is on it somewhere at different times. That should be addressed. There is a big anorexia meeting in Sydney. Avoidance is a problem. We're excited about the literature.

I discovered anorexia late. I went ten years without a relationship. Anorexia meetings are very helpful, now I am dating. Anorectics suffer tremendously. We have three meetings where we discuss the solution. Tools are needed to be discussed.

Anorexia recovery has brought me to where I can come up to this mic. Principles above personalities. The terms provide relief. I hear concerns of unity, but group conscience will guide us. The draft tools provide hope.

Labels are scary, but they allow the start of recovery in that specific areas. I am capable of sex addiction, love addiction and anorexia. We have literature on every area that is useful.

Anorectic specific literature is being written. It's great to have tools. The text is more focused on self; it needs to be focused on action. Example: how does one balance world and self. We can make comments via link.

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

I like Anorexia 1-2-3 and overlaps and should be referenced in this. We need to relate literature to each other.

Space on the Agenda will be reserved for a motion on this item next year.

15n07/15-05

The motion was read.

Motion Summarized:

Approval of the New 40 Questions for Self-Diagnosis

Comment: We do not have the current 40 Questions in Agenda – but they are in the Office area.

Committee input:

CAC Comments noted in Agenda.

Pro and Con:

Con: We noted the error or relevance when we commented before. Some questions taken out should be left in. Some new questions are vague.

Pro: We very much welcome the new questions in Germany, especially aspects of internet and pornography.

Con: Adamantly opposed the draft is full of sex addiction, but no love addiction questions. Does not address sex *and* love addiction. Perhaps these should be in a different publication?

Pro: Powerful piece of literature. The ‘ashamed’ question is very welcome.

Con: The draft is not inclusive enough. It needs to address love addiction and anorexia. There is a lot of thought involved – the Internet is very powerful aspect of addiction. Unclear if this replaces the existing 40 Questions. The time for this is not now.

Pro: The vagueness draft is very powerful. The specifics are hard. 40 is an arbitrary number of questions, can't get too specific. There is a lot of search on line. These questions are those things that will pop up. There is lots of cloud/online addiction. We need new questions.

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

Can I make a friendly Amendment? Maybe we should use the first five questions, then use multiple paths. Swap one of the first five with a question of love addiction.

Point of Clarification: Challenge the idea of rewriting on floor no friendly amendments in the Literature Review process by friendly amendment.

Point of Clarification: When is the time to table?

A: Any time.

Motion to table; seconded.

Point of Clarification: If the motion is tabled it returns exactly as currently written.

Point of Clarification: How can it be revised?

A: The originator can revise the motion but will come back in a different place on the Agenda. There is an exception to the rule it can come back next year since it is literature.

(30 seconds)

(30 seconds)

Inquiry: Literature can be revised. There is also possible BOT action after approved.

The ARS sets the priority based on order of receipt.

If tabled,

The CLC withdraws the motion.

Motion was withdrawn and not acted on.

(30 seconds)

Announcements

Adjourn to 2:15.

General Assembly: Thursday, August 6th – 2:15 p.m.

Jack S., Facilitator; Danette S., Assistant Facilitator, Anthony P., Back-Up Facilitator,
Curtis B., Record Keeper; Diane S., Timekeeper; Will C., Spiritual Reminder, Ann and Paul T., Vote
Counters

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

Facilitator: This is thought to be the first husband/wife facilitator/assistant.

There are 39 voting members present – this is a quorum.

The Facilitator made Board of Trustees announcement. We currently have six trustees. We are authorized to have nine. Three are rotating off the Board, and must stand for reelection. The three are Steve B., Susan G., and Chris D. Are there any other nominations?

Andrew H. was nominated. He is willing to serve, and has the necessary sobriety.

There will be a question and answer session for the nominees this evening. They will speak for two to three minutes. Jack S also needs to be confirmed.

The election is at 8 AM the last day. One vote per delegate. There are four nominees for three three-year positions, and a separate vote for confirmation. Only three candidates can receive votes on a single ballot.

Point of Clarification: How will the votes be counted?

A: There will be two sections on the ballot, one for the BOT elections and one for the confirmation.

Q: Why can't we vote for all four?

A: The By Laws don't allow voting for partial terms. After the ABM, the BOT can appoint other members.

Q: Could you clarify the nominations?

A: Andrew didn't answer the when question put to the floor, but did indicate interest to myself (Rick).

Note: voting is at 0800 tomorrow. The doors will be locked.

The counters will count the ballots, then report. Delegates have to stay in the room during the count.

15n08/15-06

(Motion read)

Motion Summarized:

Article V, Section 2 of the By-Laws to be amended to make the CCC Chair a voting member of the Conference.

Committee comments:

**2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas**

The BOT supports this motion. It is consistent with Concept Four. We already fund this.

The Conference Public Information Committee believes the chair of the CCC should be neutral during the conference.

The CLC supports this motion unanimously.

Point of Clarification: Why wasn't this voted on when the CCC was funded?

A: This By Law follows the intent of the CCC. It was an oversight.

Point of Clarification: This grants voting privileges to the CCC Chair.

Pro and Con:

Pro: The CCC chair has been a delegate and votes when he is. We want everybody to vote who put heart and soul into the ABM. It doesn't bias his vote.

Con: If the CCC chair is a delegate, he should represent members. If not a delegate, then he represents a power structure. This could create a problem.

Pro: We do not govern, we humbly lead but the President of the U.S. can vote.

Q: Can a non-member be the CCC Chair of S.L.A.A. vote?

A: Yes, a non-member who is staff may vote.

Q: Who constitutes "senior staff"?

A: Pam Martin and the Webmaster.

Q: Can a non-member of S.L.A.A. be chair of the CCC?

A: No clear answer, nothing in the by Laws prohibits it.

Q: Can the BOT vote?

A: Yes. They are members of the Conference.

Clarification: We did have someone on a Conference Committee who was not a member.

Clarification: A non-member could be a Board member and voting conference member and members of the staff can be voting members of the Conference. They may or may not be members of S.L.A.A.

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

(30 seconds)

Vote called.

30 seconds

1st vote: 34-6-4

Note that this is more than 2/3.

Minority responses:

Point of Clarification: Do abstentions count in the percentages? Can the minority be small?

A: No, and yes unless unanimous.

Minority opinion:

Con: the CCC chair might not be an S.L.A.A. member.

Revote: (tallied by count-off) 33-8-4

Facilitator: Passes by 2/3, so is binding on the BOT.

15n09/15-07

The IFD is read

IFD summarized:

To have the Suggestions for Public Outreach document available as a free document available for download from the FWS website.

Committee comments:

CPIC: We want feedback on the contents of this pamphlet. It will be a living document. It is available now. This goes further as a free pamphlet.

CLC: We fully support this effort.

Point of Clarification: Who would edit this type of literature, especially given rapid changes?

A: In this case, the Conference Public Information Committee edits the literature. Then it was submitted to the BPRC and BOT. It was approved with changes, then it was reapproved.

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

Comment: I agree with the concept. The CLC should weigh-in in the future.

Point of Clarification: The BOT doesn't approve of literature. It made suggestions to approve something to post on the website, not as a Conference approved document.

Discussion:

Note that if you visit a lot of A.A. groups, they have never heard of S.L.A.A..

We need to clarify the effect of Tradition 11, attraction rather than promotion. What would a newspaper ad look like?

How are you going to do version control to know you have the latest version? – consider a versioning scheme.

I'm grateful the document exists. I was confused before. I do use an online classified service to publicize S.L.A.A., which is why we need version control. It needs to be more widely available.

We do need version control. We need to approve content changes.

I applaud the effort. It's long overdue. It's a good idea that it's going to be a living document.

It's OK that it will be a living document, but those who translate literature need to know about the changes. Maybe change it only once a year.

(Rita H is introduced.)

The assembly adjourned at 3:20 until 3:35.

General Assembly: Thursday, August 6th – 2:15 p.m.

Phillip W., Facilitator; Andrew H., Assistant Facilitator, Susan G., Back-Up Facilitator, Curtis B., Record Keeper; Diane S., Timekeeper; Will C., Spiritual Reminder,

15n10/15-08

The IFD is read.

IFD Summarized:

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

The Board Programs and Membership Committee is requesting discussion on whether the ABM minutes published on the S.L.A.A. website at <http://www.slaafws.org/abmfullminutes> should be password protected or not.

The facilitator limits discussion to 20 minutes, and individual comments to 2 minutes each.

No Committee Comments

Discussion:

This is on the Agenda because somebody wanted the Board to make this decision; Board feels this should be decided by Conference. It came to BPMC. Should it be password protected? It's not our duty to make this decision; we are asking for feedback, and then we'll decide.

Why protect minutes? Not much else on web-site is currently protected. Will there be a slippery slope of concerns about protecting information on web-site not currently password protected.

Before I was a delegate a number of years ago, I found the minutes online. They were fascinating for me and got me interested in Conference service. A fear is that Board members and others listed by first name and last initial are not anonymous. It would be difficult to identify anyone other than Board members and Board is not for those people with such a concern.

We need to protect anonymity. Even if you have a concern with your anonymity with an unusual first name you could request that only a first initial be used. I had concerns early on. I understand the Board position. The worry is the anonymity issue but I think it not be password protected.

Maybe we should use the first initial only. The minutes can be searched, especially if there is an unusual first name. Otherwise, it's good.

The NSA and FBI aren't looking at us – interested in dep web and dark web. Sites exist for tracing people. No one cares except us. Anonymity is not a thing anymore and passwords are easy to break.

I do a lot of research in minutes. We have had first and last initials. People who facilitate have names and initials.

There will be no names in the full minutes. We have minutes back to 1987. Submitter key has names that are not published.

The official, not internal BOT minutes are on website. The meetings are recorded but we do not use names officially.

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

BOT does not publish all deliberations in official minutes to allow members to deliberate without fear of repercussions, but every final decision made is published in official minutes.

Please don't password protect the minutes, I have too many passwords to remember as it is. I will be the one who blows up the site having to repeatedly bother the webmaster for the lost password.

I don't mind password protection. I endorse every effort to protect every effort to preserve anonymity, especially since I'm anorexic.

What's the point of a pain from a password if password can be obtained by everyone? Transparency leads to trust.

Nobody is identified in last year's minutes with regard to comments. Concern I had last year was because some of old minutes do connect comments with commenters. We don't ask for a confidentiality document to access them but should we consider that?

My Intergroup used to publish things that connected with my name. Names are already available for me because my position with several service bodies in S.L.A.A. Why have a password?

I have papers with my name and signatures on it filed with IRS. Participating in S.L.A.A. and service is, I believe, God's will for me. When it comes to anonymity, I believe God has my back.

People should know ahead of time if the names are going to be public. They should have option to know before it happens.

15n11/15-09

IFD is Read

IFD Summarized:

That FWS, in conjunction with the Board of Trustees(BOT), institute a program of designated giving which will allow donors to give to specific projects designated by the BOT with the aim of increasing giving to the fellowship overall.

Committee comments:

The CFC unanimously approves this IFD. This is permissive, allows BOT to select projects and get separate contributions for. Other non-profits do this. It gets people more involved and allows the BOT to

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

do what's worthwhile. Negatives include people dictating what they give money to, this is why it should be BOT who decides what money is given to.

The facilitator announced that each speaker would get 2 minutes, with 20 minutes maximum discussion.

Discussion:

I'm in favor of more donations. But, what happens if the project does not go forward? It could create more headaches. Some projects are more attractive even if they are not needed as much as less attractive needs.

Q: How are funds allocated now?

A: Except for the Prudent Reserve, everything goes into General Operating Funds the board budgets everything and allocates to various things. The conference committees got 100% of requests last year.

It's better if the conference recommends priorities rather than the Board which would be more democratic.

How would money be used if a lot were donated to specific items? If one project is favored over another?

Q: One consideration is 501(c)(3) I wonder about restrictions whether it would change deductibility with respect to donations.

A: Targeted donations are subject to IRS. Appreciate the fact you pointed that out.

The way IFD is written is important. An important consideration is the need to hire non-profit lawyers and accountants before we do this. Let us know what you think over the upcoming year. If we do this, what would you like to see?

I like the idea, but don't let this be too specific so that it would allow people to dictate very specific things such as which literature we develop.

I like designated giving. There needs to be a disclaimer – the money goes back to the general fund if it's not all spent on the designated project.

What will happen if there is a mountain of money? That can lead to corruption and the Traditions protect us from problems of too much money and power. We need to look where we need it. I'm concerned about the emphasis on money.

I haven't seen any empirical evidence this would work, especially for 12 step programs. If I had to choose now, I'm against because of paperwork and difficulty of going back if it doesn't work.

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

Evidence exists that this works for charities. It generates more money. People more likely to share if they think they are getting input. It's also important to be careful that it does not become a way for donors to control. Who decides, what the goals are needs to be clear.

Under the IFD the BOT maintains control over which initiatives are supported. We tend to think of the big-bad donor, but I see this working for people in the meetings to get more in the basket for specific projects.

This isn't a mountain of paperwork. It does seem to work. An issue of interest in donating if donors know where money goes. I would like to know where the money goes. We could rotate projects to avoid too much money in one place.

A.A. is important in considering this. Was this brought because there is there money waiting in the wings?

We aren't self-supporting. 60+% comes from book sales – we are not sitting on a mound of money. For comparison, A.A. Cincinnati is over \$200,000 per year. This is the only way to reduce literature costs is to increase donations from the fellowship.

Fellowship not about money, it is about service work. We need to focus on service work, not money. Why does somebody have to have influence to donate?

Some committees are more active than others. This is beyond the ability to handle internally. We need to hire out to people who can give better technology. It is worthwhile.

AA has a checkbox that requires to say you are a member to donate. Can't find on Al-Anon website where you can donate at all.

15n12/15-10

IFD Read

IFD Summarized:

The IFD would formulate a new committee exclusively and specifically for the purpose of expanding S.L.A.A. outreach efforts to treatment centers, hospitals, and other facilities and/or agencies that treat alcoholics/addicts who are newly recovering from substances. The idea behind this concept is that often when substances are removed from addicts, other issues relating to sex and love addiction may surface.

Committee comments:

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

CPIC: We believe that it is important to reach out to recovering addict in facilities. We should use existing committees and develop clear boundaries between Conference Committees and Board Committees.

Discussion:

LA has a Hospitals and Institutions Committee. The Conference Prison Outreach Committee doesn't have the manpower to do this project. The main focus is to carry message to sex and love addicts who cannot get to meetings. The Committee would be constructing letters for facilities and reaching out to Intergroups. CICC and CPIC could be involved in this as well.

We now have 16 Conference committees. Another committee complicates this issue. We already have means to handle this. No one in CMRC and other committees, we need to simplify.

People who run these committees are interested in this subject. Interest in other Committees irrelevant. I facilitate two meetings with offenders. We need to spread the word.

I can only imagine how hard it is to be in facility or jail. I facilitate a meeting at a treatment center. I take a meeting into a Treatment facility. There is a gap with treatment centers. A.A. Groups have H&I.

Conference Committees ebb and flow. This is a good idea; other 12 Step Programs have this. Reaching addicts in facilities could help solve a lot of pain and suffering out there

I think it is nomenclature, change the CPOC to include health facilities. The addiction is concurrent with many other addictions.

Really, the Intergroups on the ground are the key.

H&I is done in Australia. We have a bus to take participants to meetings. They are independent groups and it is working really well.

This is a silly nomenclature issue. Issue would only whether there is the authority to expand to facilities. A new committee would subsume CPOC.

We need to ensure that professionals know about 12 step programs. Psychiatrists don't know of this addiction, nor are they interested – they just give drugs. We need to reach doctors. I have personal experience with this in Europe through a family member.

Announcements

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

Totals from last night: Auction - \$2,799.00; Raffle - \$132.00
Contributions: \$3,200. A total of \$6,133.00 was raised.

General Assembly: Thursday, August 6th – 5:00 p.m.

Anthony P., Facilitator; Nancy G., Assistant Facilitator, Jay G., Back-Up Facilitator,
Curtis B., Record Keeper;

Board of Trustees Nominees

The purpose of this session is to get to know the Board candidates. Written information is in the binder, except for Andrew. [Information passed out.]

Each candidate gets three minutes each, and should discuss their take on the First Tradition.

Jack S.:

Most vulnerable position I have been in. April 29, 1999 is my sobriety date. Done service at every level. Tradition one tells us about unity...our work here, in home groups, create unity. Never had a real relationship before fellowship. Now have intimate relationships with people, including many members of the program.

Susan G:

We start our Board Meetings by stating our sobriety date, mine is April 18, 2006. We have a three year sobriety requirement for the Board and it is amazing that I get to say that. Never thought I would get three years – came in in 2003 and didn't get it – I had to hit a bottom that nearly killed me. The group I belong to is like here; a lot of contention but we work it out and achieve unity. My personal recovery may not have happened if the group had fallen apart. We're all from the dented can section of the store. I have gotten so much from this program and I want to keep giving back.

Steve B.:

Original sobriety date from first bottom lines is July 2007, from additional bottom lines is November, 2007. Traditional One – does that mean the individual's welfare is not important? No, we love the individuals by carrying God's Grace of recovery through unity. Related unity to a personal story of how marriage was saved by working on each of our individual selves. That's how we preserve unity, by working on our own recoveries. So I don't use my ego to hurt the fellowship, that we are guided by a common suffering and a common recovery. Serving on the Board is an opportunity.

Andrew H.:

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

Sobriety date is June 5, 1995. Have held a number of positions in the Fellowship, including on the Board from 1998 to 2001. I had a lot of wrong ideas back then but did my best to serve the Fellowship. Recovery is different today. I express gratitude through service. I decided the best I can serve is through the Board. Unity becomes just a word with no meaning, and part of unity is the opportunity to express our personal views of it. I may not be able to trust every single one of you, and sometimes I don't but I trust the process. Unity that comes from process and program that allows us to do pretty well.

Questions:

Q: How do you feel about one Board candidate not being here?

Jack: Chris D. Does a tremendous amount of work on the BOT. He chooses not to come and I am saddened by it. I trust the work he does because I have seen what he does.

Susan: Chris has been a long time BOT in the past. He has attended the BOT ABM meetings by teleconference. He's at all BOT Meetings and has been a faithful member. I'm not upset.

Steve: Chris is out there all year doing his job. He is amazing in the way he runs the HR/Personnel Committee. His decision to not be here is something the individual Conference members need to decide for themselves by voting.

Andrew: It has happened before. We have to do the best we can. Can't meet them face to face and decide from what we have if we think the person can serve.

Q: What environment, focus of area of S.L.A.A. would you like to see enhanced, created or improved?

Jack: When I was appointed, I wanted to focus on transparency and the "us versus them" atmosphere with the Board/Conference. Also struggle with international meetings.

Susan: More interaction with international groups; hospitals and institutions. Another membership survey with better responses. Increase registration of Groups.

Steve: Trying to increase connectivity of S.L.A.A. across the Globe. Something to increase S.L.A.A. interest in service. Still a lot of policies and mundane work to be done.

Andrew: F.W.S. is a business. A lot of what the Board does is business. A steward of the financial resources and we need to move forward in that position so you all can go out and carry the message.

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

Q: How do you maintain life balance?

Jack: Service work is one of the most important thing I do. I run my own business but I take time out to do service. I got a service sponsor, my wife helps me with spirituality.

Susan: Met my sponsor at an ABM. Check in with her every week, also a former BOT member so she acts as my service sponsor as well. I must work Step Eleven every day.

Steve: There are some non-negotiables in my life; Steps 10 – 12, going to meetings, spend time with family and wife. Wife does a lot of service in another large fellowship – so she understands my service. I have to do my business in the office; I do work a lot of it in with my work schedule which I can do as a sole practitioner.

Andrew: I worked hard not to burn out; haven't done that yet. I have a sponsor, sponsee, four dogs and three cats. Not to take myself too seriously.

Q: Describe your bottom lines.

[Not recorded for privacy reasons]

Q: Which spiritual principle is most important?

Andrew: Humility

Steve: Willingness; to stay out of my way and not keeping Steve first.

Susan: Being in the right place; HP is higher than me. I work on pridefulness.

Jack: Acceptance; people, places and things as well as accepting myself.

Q: What does a Board member do? What's important?

Steve: Board is fiduciary of the corporation. We are the Board over the corporation, not S.L.A.A. We meet every month every other month is three hours the others are two. We report back on our Committees and our Conference liaison-ships. Board members also chair or sit on Board Committees that generally meet monthly. There is also Board subcommittees. Tons of reports.

Q: How do you handle a member of a meeting who becomes argumentative? What advice would you give?

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

Andrew: Treat people with dignity and respect.

Steve: God cares about the adverbs. Are we going to act caringly or are we going to act angrily. My emotions don't help if it keeps me from behaving well. Sometimes we have to be direct.

Susan: Higher Power's Will makes itself be known eventually; Groups tend to deal with things well without us acting like the S.L.A.A. police. We are at the bottom of the inverted triangle.

Jack: Depends on level of service; Intergroup is different than Board level. Think of the movie "War Games;" the only way to win is to not get stuck in the drama.

Q: How do you get beyond your character defects when working with others?

Jack: By not playing the game.

Susan: We always open with prayer; use my Eleventh Step.

Steve: Step back and realize I'm not always right.

Andrew: Just breathe

Q: Do you trust the members? Do you trust the process?

Andrew: I don't know how to trust you individually until I work with you, I trust the process.

Steve: I trust God.

Susan: Yes and yes.

Jack: Yes and yes.

General Assembly: Friday, August 7th – 8:00 a.m.

Juanita J., Facilitator; Gabriel G., Assistant Facilitator, Will. C., Back-Up Facilitator
Rick B., Bob G. BOT Election Facilitators
Madeline S., Spiritual Reminder, Matthew N. Timekeeper

BOT Election

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

Reading of the Steps, Traditions, Concepts, and Serenity prayer.

Rick B outlined the voting procedure. Pam noted that there are 45 voting members present. There is one absentee ballot.

The three highest vote getters of the 4 running for the board will be elected providing they get at least 50%. One, two, or three may be elected, but not four.

Point of Clarification: Is the requirement 50% of votes cast?

A: Yes.

45 ballots, by count, were returned. There is one absentee ballot.

Point of Clarification: It must be 50% of 47 eligible voters.

(Votes are being counted)

Explaining the ARS:

The Agenda Review Subcommittee (ARS) is a subcommittee of the CCC. The ARS is chartered to approve agenda items for the ABM. Agenda items start at the ARS. Any member, Group, or Intergroup can submit an item. The best method is electronically through the website (the Agenda Editor). The deadline is 7PM the first day of the ABM. The ARS can reject an item – there are criteria. An individual can be on the ARS without being on the CCC.

The first draft Agenda is created in January. It will include IFD items from this ABM. We are working to simplify the process.

Q: Why is there a deadline during the ABM? We need to provide feedback ahead of time, especially for the motions.

A: Earlier is better. We kept the last minute option in case of omissions, and to promote inclusion.

Q: What are the deadlines?

A: First, we convert IFDs to motions. Dates are in the binder.

Q: Could someone other than the person who submitted an IFD submit a motion?

A: Yes, but it won't have the same precedence.

**2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas**

Comment: You are encouraged to take a position on the ARS if asked.

Announcements:

We want comments on draft literature.
Do not disseminate drafts to the public.
August 28 is the deadline for the TEF.
Committee budgets are due September 1. Submit even if the total is \$0.
The list of initiators (IFD and motions) can be provided.

Election Results:

Jack S is confirmed.
Steve B is reelected.
Chris D is reelected.
Susan G is reelected.

A candidate can see his/her result (only).

15n13/15-11

IFD read.

IFD Summarized:

Literature: Draft Service Pamphlet to encourage individuals to either give service or to stay and mentor others into giving service.

Committee comments:

CLC: We struggled with this, including with the format. Cartoons catch attention. . More will be provided. We need feedback.

Discussion:

It's a wonderful pamphlet. It's needed. Gets the message across in clear and simple way. Caution against use of Comic Sans font.

The illustrations are similar to A.A. products. Illustrations are to support clarity and understandability. I would like more text on why we need to do service (to stay sober) and a more serious treatment of the membership.

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

Love promoting service. Many things, including font choice, influence how a pamphlet is viewed. Some things feed negatively: "Service not my style" "Why do I need to do service?" It feeds negatively can improve the tone by being upbeat.

Add some quotes on actual experience in service. Cartoon looks dated. Do we need this? It needs more positive content. Don't start with why people don't like it. Don't like "once people get used to it." Reduce the negativity.

Nothing about actual service positions. Service alone does not equal sobriety.

It's a good idea. Good reminder for middle of a meeting room. It needs to be more positive. The cartoons could be more mature and 2015. Not enough emphasis on gifts of service. A great first step.

Good for attention. Maybe find people working in creative industries. Outside of the US, pamphlets are hard to get. They could be added as a supplement to a Basic Text shipment. People don't always buy pamphlets.

The draft is cute and refreshing. Imagery can get things across better sometimes, like a little skit. This is not preachy. It's good to have for some people. Don't think font a big issue.

Cartoon pamphlets are really fun. Make it like the A.A.12 Concepts. Which deals well with issues raised today.

We have a sexualized culture where kids are learning about it earlier. We need to reach newcomers who are younger and highly sexualized. The font is used for memes, which are jokes. This is not good to get a helpful message across. We need more ways to reach the addict.

The session was adjourned at 9:30.

General Assembly: Friday, August 6th – 2:15 p.m.

Phillip W., CCC Chair and Facilitator; Steve B. Board Chair and Assistant Facilitator, Earl D., Finance Chair and Back-Up Facilitator.

Board Election Results:

Chairs:

Steve B. – Chair of the Board of Trustees

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

Chris D. – Chair of the Board HR/Personnel Committee
Susan G. – Chair of the Board Programs and Memberships Committee
Bob G. – Chair of the Board Finance Committee
Rick B. – Chair of the Board Outreach Committee
Jack S. – Chair of the Board Development Committee

Officers:

Steve B. – President
Bob G. – Treasurer
Susan G. – Secretary

Board Committee Liaisons:

Conference Anorexia Committee – Jack S.
Conference By-Laws Committee – Rick B.
Conference Charter Committee – Steve B.
Conference Diversity Committee– Chris D.
Conference Finance Committee – Bob G.
Conference Healthy Relationship Committee – Jack S.
Conference Intergroup Communication Committee – Rick B.
Conference Journal Committee – Susan G.
Conference Literature Committee – Steve B.
Conference Membership Retention Committee – Chris D.
Conference Hospital and Institutional Committee – Susan G.
Conference Public Information Committee – Chris D.
Conference Service Committee – Bob G.
Conference Sponsorship Committee – Bob G.
Conference Steps, Traditions and Concepts Committee - Rick B.
Conference Translations Committee – Susan G.

Conference Committee Reports

Conference Anorexia Committee:

Lots of new members have signed up. Working on Anorexia Recovery Toolkits – will incorporate some of the suggestions. Working on Anorexia Steps 4, 5 and 6 – working on Step Four, then Seven, Eight and Nine and then Ten Eleven and Twelve. Sandy B. stepped down as chair and Kali V. will be Chair and P.A. K., Vice Chair.

Conference By-Laws Committee:

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

No Report

Conference Charter Committee:

There are surveys that will be used to plan next ABM. Looking for people to help on the ARS Subcommittee. Updating CSM next project.

Conference Diversity Committee:

Focus on making more welcoming to LGBTQ community. Jason S. Chair.

Conference Finance Committee:

Earl D. Chair. Jason S. is Vice Chair. We're going to focus on Budget, need the Committee requests. Looking at other forms of revenue growth.

Conference Healthy Relationships Committee:

Nancy G., Chair. Janine is editor. Have an Australian member. Lots of interest at the ABM. Working on a booklet and redid Mission Stated "devoted to developing resources that enhance our capacity for Healthy Relationships."

Conference Intergroup Communication Committee:

Phillip W., Chair. Have two projects in the works, collecting and updating Group and Intergroup Contacts. Developing communications conduit for intergroups, Conference Committees and F.W.S.

Conference Journal Committee:

Tessa B. Chair. Have some new interested people. Projects are producing Journals, Focus Journals and Journal Calendar as a giveaway for subscribers. Working on digital archive.

Conference Literature Committee:

Wil C., Chair. Writing Group Subcommittee is where we report on ongoing projects. Have 12 and 12 Project has made great strides. Have a Story Book Project. 16 active projects, six inactive projects. Have a central repository for documents with a numbering system.

Conference Member Retention Committee:

Jase S., Chair, Earl D., Vice Chair. Committee being reactivated. Will work with CLC on Service Pamphlet as well.

Conference Hospitals and Institutions Committee:

Trudy, Interim Chair. Changed name to CHIC. Had a good year, set up procedural guidelines, new database, Pen Pal formation letters and revised Mission Statement. Vice Chair is Suzanne D., who will become Chair in January. Alan B. will be Secretary. Madeline will be Respondent and Trudy will handle treatment center project.

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

Conference Public Information Committee:

David B., Chair, Jay G. is Vice Chair. Creating an outreach to active military. Outreach Materials Repository to be created. Try to revive Interfellowship Forum Website. May develop YouTube videos and some free audio speaker files. Effort to raise search protocol on Web.

Conference Service Committee:

Rob S. Chair. Fifteen members in New Jersey. Put together "Service is Sobriety" packets. Changed mission Statement. Service Pamphlet service still ongoing.

Conference Sponsorship Committee:

Chair is Ron G. Completing the F.W.S. response letter to sponsorship questions. Changing emphasis to more personal contact. Continuing to work on three web pages: "What is Sponsorship?" "What is long-Distance Sponsorship?" and CSPC service opportunities. Working on three draft literature pamphlets. Looking at promoting local sponsorship.

Conference Steps, Traditions and Concepts:

No Report.

Conference Translations Committee:

Ron G. Interim Chair, Maartin K., Vice Chair, Chair. Translations Guidelines submitted to the Board for review. Looking for contributions to International Issue of the Journal.

Vote to Confirm Conference Committees

Quorum is present.

Jason S., A.J. J., Vote Counters

Confirmation of Conference Committees:

Conference Anorexia Committee – CAC
Conference By-Laws Committee – CBC
Conference Charter Committee – CCC
Conference Diversity Committee– CDC
Conference Finance Committee – CFC
Conference Healthy Relationship Committee – CHRC
Conference Intergroup Communication Committee – CIC
Conference Journal Committee – CJC
Conference Literature Committee – CLC

2015 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
August 4-7, 2015
Hyatt North Houston
Houston, Texas

Conference Membership Retention Committee – CMRC
Conference Hospital and Institutional Committee – CHIC
Conference Public Information Committee – CPIC
Conference Service Committee – CSC
Conference Sponsorship Committee – CSPC
Conference Steps, Traditions and Concepts Committee– CSTCC
Conference Translations Committee – CTC

Vote: 40-0-0

ABC/M 2016 Announcement:

The 2016 ABC/M will be held in the Boston Massachusetts area with an International Recovery Convention (IRC) being held in 2016 to coincide with the 40th Anniversary of S.L.A.A.

Closing Announcements

Motion to Close, Seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimously CLOSED.