

Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous
Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes

August 2-5, 2016

Boston, Massachusetts, USA

Theme: Tradition 2 - For our group purpose, there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as this power may be expressed through our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted Servants, they do not govern.

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

CHIC Conference Hospital and Institutions 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
- CSC Conference Service Committee
- CSPC Conference Sponsorship Committee
- CSTC Conference Steps, Traditions and Concepts Committee
- CTC Conference Translation Committee

Opening of the General Assembly, Tuesday, August 2 2016, 1:00 – 2:00 PM

Opening – Moment of Silence followed by Serenity Prayer and reading of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts.

Roles:

- Facilitator – Phillip W.
- Assistant Facilitator – Steve B.
- Backup Facilitator – Earl D.

Introduction of Conference Charter Committee (CCC) members present at ABM: Phillip W. (chair), Andrew H, Stephen F., David B., Anthony P. (not arrived yet)

Introduction of Board of Trustees: Steve B. (chair), Rick B., Bob G., Susan G., Jack S., Rich K.

Introduction of General Manager: Pam Martin.

Introduction of Local Planning Committee Chair: Seth S.

Introduction of Record Keeper: David B.

Introduction of ABM Delegates in Attendance.

7 Countries represented: USA, UK, Canada, Poland, Netherlands, Sweden, and Ireland

ABM Policies (Phillip W.):

- No video or images at the general assembly sessions, conference committee sessions, or social functions
- Wear name tags at all time
- Silence cell phones and other devices
- During general session assemblies, need vote counters, timekeepers, and spiritual reminders
- When raising your hand, keep it raised until counting is done.
- Check in with Pam when entering the assembly room. Check out with Pam when leaving. Pam tells us how many voters are present and if we have quorum.
- When speaking, please use microphone so we can record for the minutes

- Deadline for the Submission to the 2016 Agenda is 7:00 PM tonight (Tuesday, August 2 2016).

Items in the ABM Binder (Phillip W.):

- Schedule of ABM
- Map of Hotel
- Welcome Letter
- Conference Committee Sessions – Which room at what time
- Current Conference Committee Listings
- Reports – Board Reports and Conference Committee Reports
- Agenda – Not in Binder Yet. Final agenda will be available Wednesday morning.
- Board of Trustees Candidate Interviews – Information from Rich K. is in binder. Information from Jack S. and Bob G. will be available later.
- Conference Service Manual – The CSM has been revised for this ABM. Explanation of the ABM process starts on page 24.
- Appendix of Forms
- S.L.A.A. By-Laws
- Index of Motions from past years

Items in the ABM Supplemental Binder (Steve B.):

- Multiple flyers with information
- F.W.S. Quarterly Newsletter
- Order form for purchases from Store
- ABM Survey form
- Statement on Anonymity and the Law
- Process for Conference Literature Approval
- A.A. Books on Twelve Steps and Twelve Concepts
- Free Journal
- Wristband
- Serenity Chip
- 40th Anniversary Medallion – Keep it in your pocket on 30 December 2016 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of S.L.A.A.

Announcements and Housekeeping

Session adjourned.

Tuesday, August 2 2016, Getting to Know the BOT and the F.W.S. Office, 2:20 PM – 3:30 PM

- Facilitator – Gabriel G.
- Assistant Facilitator – Diana S.
- Back-Up Facilitator – Anne K.

Steve B. (Board chair) introduces Pam Martin, who then introduces the staff.

Office Staff present:

- Pam Martin (General Manager) – Boss of the office. Hired in 2013. Answers to “Pam”.
- Pamela Tillman (Bookkeeper) – Answers to “Pamela”. When sending 7th Tradition donations, Pamela handles the money. Please help her by including Group Name, registration number, city, state, day of the week, meeting time with donations. This helps Pamela attribute the donation to the correct group or intergroup. Pamela has been with the office 5 years.
- Hector Fuentes (Shipping and other tasks) – Hector has been at the office 5 years. When you place an order for literature, Hector gets it to you “faster than Amazon”. Orders almost always go out the same day or the next day. When you get your order quickly and correctly with sufficient packing material, thank Hector.
- Christina (Reception and other tasks) – Not Present at ABM. If you call FWS office and hear a cheery voice on the phone, that’s Christina. Christina does the artwork on the binder. Hector and Christina are responsible for making sure all the materials get packed up and shipped to the ABM.
- Beth S. (F.W.S. Webmaster) – Works remotely with the office. Been employed for 9 years. Works regularly with the office and the Board of Trustees. Beth will give a presentation on the F.W.S. website Wednesday morning.

Board of Trustees Members seated in the middle of the General Assembly room. Introduced in order of seniority.

- Steve B. (Board Chair) – Served on the Board for 5 years – 3 years as Board Finance chair and 2 years as Board chair. Liaison to the CCC and the Conference Chairs calls as well as the Conference Literature Committee. Current term ends in two years. From Sunrise, Florida. Came to S.L.A.A. in 2007. Served as chair of Conference Sponsorship Committee and chair of Conference Finance Committee and served as treasurer for the fellowship.
- Rick B. (Board Outreach Chair and member of Board Development Committee) – Appointed to board in 2011. Served as Board Governance and Nominating Committee chair and Board Public Relations chair. Liaison to Conference By-Laws Committee, Conference Intergroup Communications Committee, and Conference Steps Traditions and Concepts Committee. Came into program in 2008. Became conference committee chair first year as a delegate. Served on By-Laws Committee and then Board Governance and Nominating Committee.
- Susan G. (Board Secretary) – Served as Board Secretary for 2 years. Prior to that served as Board chair. Fourth year on Board. Liaison to Journal and Translation committees. Chair of Board Programs and Membership Committee – a new committee. Committee recommends putting out a 50th anniversary edition of the S.L.A.A. Basic Text.
- Bob G. (Board Finance Chair) – Joined S.L.A.A. in 2007. Elected to first term on Board in 2013. Standing for reelection this year. First attended ABM as a volunteer in 2010 ABM. Started service on Board Finance Committee in 2011. Now chairs the Board Finance Committee and serves as treasurer for F.W.S.

- Jack S. – Term on board expires this year, standing for reelection to the Board. Liaison to Conference Anorexia Committee and Conference Healthy Relationships Committee. Chair of Board Development Committee. Also on Board Finance Committee and chair of Board Planning Committee for the IRC. Came into S.L.A.A. in 1998.
- Rich K. – Appointed to Board in October 2015. Up for election to a 3-year term this year. Served on Board Finance Committee since 2013. Liaison to Conference Sponsorship Committee and Conference Hospitals and Institutions Committee.

Questions to the BOT:

1. What is the Board of Trustees and what is its purpose and duties?
 - The B.O.T. is the Board of Trustees of The Augustine Fellowship, S.L.A.A., Fellowship-Wide Services, Inc. Trustees do not govern members. Trustees govern the corporation of Fellowship-Wide Services. This corporation operates the office, produces literature, fills orders for literature, handles business of putting together ABM and IRC. Board of Trustees are not bosses of members. They are boss of the General Manager (Pam Martin). By-Laws also state that Board and the Conference are trustees of the Steps and Traditions. They have authority to speak up when Traditions are violated, but they do not govern.
2. What are the Trustee positions and the roles of such positions, subcommittees, etc.
 - 5 Board Committees do the background work for the board. Recommend policies procedures, ideas.
 - i. Board Outreach Committee
 - ii. Board Programs and Membership Committee
 1. ABM and IRC Subcommittees
 2. Translation Copyright Subcommittee
 3. Website
 - iii. Board Finance Committee – Only committee mandated by By-Laws due to responsibility of Board to oversee how money is spent.
 - iv. Board Development Committee – Help Board become a strategic board and help train new Board members.
 - v. Board HR Personnel Committee – Oversees issues relating to employees.
3. Why do board-level service?
 - Rich K.: Because I Can. I have to give back what was given to me when I came in. It's an honor and a great responsibility.
 - Jack S.: It's a gradual step. If you feel you need to do more and have accomplished what you needed at the Conference level, you should do Board service.
 - Steve B.: I believe it was my Higher Power's will. I started at a time when there were serious legal issues and I believe God put me where I was when I needed to be there.
 - Bob G.: Started service welcoming people, leading meetings, being treasurer. Went to intergroup and first meeting needed a new Treasurer. Volunteered at 2010 ABM and

was invited to serve on Board Finance Committee. S.L.A.A. saved my life and I feel I owe service to the fellowship.

- Susan G.: S.L.A.A. online has numerous positions, so lots of places to be of service. Online fellowship believes in service. I was mentored early to do service. My favorite saying is “service is sobering”. The people have been phenomenal. Approached to serve on Conference Sponsorship Committee, then started looking at letting experience in management to Board Finance Committee. It seemed like a natural step-up to service in this direction.
 - Rick B.: I do board-level service out of love. This fellowship saved my life and gave me a life I could not imagine. I’m happy to help this fellowship move one day further down the path.
4. What are the terms a board member can serve?
 - Elected for 3-year terms. Board can appoint someone for a vacant position. Board tends to appoint people to shortest-available term so the Conference gets to vote on appointed trustees as soon as possible. After 2 elected terms, trustees are required to rotate off the board.
 5. How often does the board meet?
 - Meet once a month. Odd numbered months are “regular” 3-hour phone meetings. Even numbered months are “interim” 2-hour phone meetings on second Saturday of the month.
 6. How often do board subcommittees meet?
 - Monthly by teleconference at a time determined by the committee. Committees may meet more often if there is a project that requires more meetings.
 7. How do the board members interact with the office?
 - All board members have an opportunity to visit the office. Except Rich K, who is new to the Board, everyone has been to the office. Everyone gets to come to the office at least once or twice during their term. Most board members interact with the office through the board chair, but there are circumstances where the trustees can contact the office directly.
 8. How many seats are on the board? How many are currently filled and how many are available?
 - Currently 6 on the board. Chris D. recently had to resign from the board. Authorized to have up to 9 members of the board.
 9. How do B.O.T. nominations work, and how do we find the candidate questionnaire?
 - This will be answered by a presentation on the election process. If you are interested in board-level service, do not be afraid to come to us. We’ll give you the applications and see what happens.

Open for questions. Please approach the microphone.

10. How does one get a paid position working for F.W.S.?
 - The office has 3 Full-Time Employees in San Antonio. The Board has 3 executive officers: President (Steve B.), Treasurer (Bob G.), and Secretary (Susan G.). Hiring is like any

corporation. The Board interviews applicants and decides on hiring. San Antonio has a growing program, but none of the employees are members of S.L.A.A. We employ two subcontractors: Beth S. is the webmaster and Pamela is the bookkeeper.

11. Has to board done any face-to-face retreats to meet in person rather than on the telephone?
 - Yes. A couple years ago, there was a meeting with a Board Consultant to help with restructuring of the board. At the last board meeting, the board discussed the possibility of having a retreat. It hasn't been done, but it's possible.
12. How much time do you dedicate to board responsibilities?
 - (Laughter) Besides monthly Board meetings, there are committee and subcommittee meetings. There are Board committee meetings and conference committee meetings as Board Liaison. Board members do 20-30 hours per month. Secretary does 40-50 per month, but it's worth it. It's sobering. When I ask if I have time for service, I ask myself how much time I spent on my addiction. It really depends on what committees you're on and how many as liaisons. First year board members traditionally don't get a lot of responsibilities. 15-20 hours a month as a first-year board member, including liaison to conference committees, preparing for meetings.
13. How are we tracking on the Strategic Plan? What are we doing about growth, especially internationally?
 - Board Development Committee and other committees broke down parts of plan and reworded to fit a Twelve Step fellowship. Changed working from Community to Fellowship for example. This year did a self-assessment based on format of last year's self-assessment. We recognized successes and areas that need improvement. Over course of the year, we're leaps and bounds over where we were last year on the strategic plan.
 - Growth, especially internationally. Board Outreach Committee is developing resources and tools for intergroups to reach out to the addict who still suffers. Also, helping to reach out to professional communities. S.L.A.A. has a table at the Society for the Advancement of Sexual Health (SASH) conference. Board made a motion to give a discount on literature for Intergroups outside of North America to make it more affordable.
14. If there were 9 people on the board, would you have to work less time per person?
 - Absolutely.
15. Do you travel to meet in person? Is there much traveling involved? Is travel at your own expense?
 - Board travels to the ABM every year. Officers might go to San Antonio once or twice during a year for on-site supervision. Usually there is not much traveling. Travel for the fellowship is paid for by the fellowship.
16. Why was the decision made to move from Boston to San Antonio?
 - None of the current members was on the board that made that decision. It had to do with cost of living – expenses to the office and cost of salaries.
17. Why are there 6 on the board instead of the full complement of 9?

- People can be elected to the board but then resign before their terms are up. Every year there are 3 board positions up for election. This year there are 3 board members up for reelection. Trustees often come from conference delegates and conference committees. The more people we have at the conference and on committees means more people in the pool of candidates. Last year we had 7 on the board, but someone had to resign due to other issues that came up during the year. Some years there are more applicants for a board seat than there are seats up for election.
18. How much of a priority is diversity for the board and the fellowship? Is the priority day-to-day business of the fellowship, or is there a priority to move in an innovative, expansive, diverse direction?
- Refer to inverted service triangle. Conference percolates up to Board to tell Board what people want. Conference Diversity Committee informs the board on diversity issues. Member survey asked about diversity to find out how diverse the fellowship is and what are the needs to the fellowship. This is how the Board Programs and Membership Committee was created. The survey wasn't large enough. With 16,000 members (maybe more), we only got 400 responses to the survey. The fellowship has to tell to Board what we need and what we want. The Board tries to make that happen within our means and resources. From survey responses, 60+ percent were male, 30+ percent were female. Board is diverse in terms of male/female and straight/gay. One of the duties of the Board Development Committee is to seek out talent. Spoke to at least 3 women within last year about possibility of serving on the Board. Diversity is our goal.
19. What can we do to get more people to do service? How do we handle people who put personalities before principles?
- Invite everyone to ask for the next 3 days "what can we do to create a culture of service within S.L.A.A.?" This is not something the BOT can do on its own. It's something the fellowship needs to do. The intergroups, the groups, the individuals need to work at creating a culture of service. If you are a sponsor, encourage your sponsees to do service work.
 - On personalities before principles: spiritual reminders are very useful. At any given time, I can be that person. It keeps me humble when someone calls for a spiritual reminder. A.A. has a responsibility pledge: "I am responsible when anyone anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. to be there and for that I am responsible." Maybe S.L.A.A. needs to do something like this, but it has to come from the conference. Go back to groups and have people be greeters, literature people, Journal reps, F.W.S. newsletter reps. Conference Service Committee needs help. They are working on a flyer to encourage people to do service.

Applause for B.O.T. for their time answering questions.

Housekeeping and Announcements
Session adjourned.

F.W.S./BOT Financial Report, Tuesday, August 2 2016, 3:50 – 4:50 PM

Roles:

- Facilitator – Earl D.
- Assistant Facilitator – Anne K.
- Backup Facilitator – Ashly M.

Presented by Bob G., Board Finance Committee Chair

1. What does F.W.S. Do?
 - a. Publish Literature
 - b. Fulfill Literature Orders
 - c. Maintain Website
 - d. Publish Newsletter
 - e. Answer questions and requests from the media
 - f. Hold ABM and IRC
 - g. Protect the trademark of S.L.A.A. – Literature is copyrighted. Protecting copyrights and trademarks helps maintain revenue.
2. Income to Fellowship:
 - a. 32.4% of income is from donations. In past years, this was 35-40%. Merchandise is 67.4% of income. This is why we protect our copyrights. Numbers don't add to 100% because there are other minor sources of income.
 - b. This report is based on 9 months to June 30 2016. The Fiscal year begins October 1. Financials at ABM are always reported for 9 months of fiscal year. Financial reports are always in F.W.S. Newsletter.
3. Last year (2014-2015 Fiscal Year), complete audit performed by Williams Crow Mask from San Antonio.
 - a. No deficiencies noted in audit. This is a new accountant for us and they care about us and our business.
 - b. Audit will be available to the fellowship. Pam Martin has copies available with her.
4. Board Finance Committee has 5 members (Bob G., Steve B., Jack S., Rich K. on Board plus Dave G. not on Board), all of whom are present at the ABM. Meets for 1.5 hours on 4th Monday of every month. If you're interested in joining Board Finance Committee (or any Board committee), see Bob G. or someone else on the Board.
5. Balance Sheet
 - a. Assets – Cash as of June 30 is \$178,026. It's always high in June because a major expenditure is the ABM. Prudent reserve is \$190,817. This is about half of the operating expenses. Petty Cash is \$213. Inventory assets: \$33,095. This drops closer to the end of the fiscal year (Sept 30). Building and Equipment is up from last year. Invested in a new copy machine, which is excellent. Pam named it Sheba, Queen of Copies. The office has already saved enough money using this printer to cover its cost. This printer is used to print the Journal in the office rather than sending it somewhere else to be printed and the Journal looks great.
 - b. Liabilities – We don't owe very much because we pay for stuff as we go along. We do not incur debt. \$890 in accounts payable, likely bills paid shortly after June 30.

Unrestricted assets (retained earnings) are \$383,894. Through the year, earnings are \$33,503 (profit, or surplus).

- c. Assets are general operating account and prudent reserve and fixed assets. Fixed assets are office equipment and other stuff we own.
6. Comparisons of cash assets and prudent reserve over last four years. At this point in 2015, we had \$21,000 more in cash on hand. Prudent reserve is up a little bit. By design, prudent reserve is minimal risk, treasuries and government funds. Inventory has been steady the last few years at around \$33,000 to \$35,000. Pam has a useful spreadsheet that helps her decide exactly when to order more supplies, so that helps keep it steady. For the past three years we've had no back orders.
7. Total assets (prudent reserve, cash on hand, equipment, inventory) is down about \$6,000 from 2015.
8. Income Statements: IRC registrations are up about \$5,000 from last year. Income from ABM auction and IRC auction are not accounted for. Income from ABM and IRC auctions are not accounted for here because they have not occurred yet. For income, we're up \$2,600 this year from \$13,086 and \$14,092 from the year before.
9. Intergroup Donations are down \$23,000 from last year. Individual Donations are up. Group Donations are down. We need to talk about what we can do to raise money. Sales income is also down about \$17,000 from last year. Combined it's about \$40,000 down from last year. If your intergroup can donate, please help. Over the last four years, intergroup donations have been trending downward.
10. Pam Martin is very good at negotiating the lowest possible price for us.
11. The financial presentation is available by emailing Bob G. When you open it, it will ask if you want to update links. DO NOT UPDATE LINKS. It will change information in the presentation. Just hit "cancel".
12. Expenses are about the same as last year. Renegotiated rent and extended it for another 5 years. In October we'll get an extra 400 sq. feet of space. Other expenses: Bank Fees are way down from last year. We try to avoid paying bank fees where possible. Bank fees often come up when converting currency. Insurance expenses are necessary – we have to have insurance. \$200 for mileage at \$0.55 per mile – this is reimbursement for Pam driving her personal vehicle. Expenses for computer supplies went way down. We try to use stuff in-house and Beth S. does a lot for us. Paid \$600 to buy out the rest of the service contract for the old Konica copier.
13. Salary expense went from \$64,000 to \$79,000. Two part-time employees have gone to full-time employees. Raises were consistent with cost-of-living expenses for San Antonio. Employees get vacation time, but no health insurance. We provide workers' comp and unemployment as does every company. The company that processes payroll has not increased per-period fees in two years and they're very reasonable.
14. Last year at June 30, we had surplus of \$116,363. This year it's \$33,000. Income from last two years is down significantly.
15. Budgets are being prepared. We try to make it realistic based on existing trends. Binder has a copy of last year's budget. Conference Finance Committee will review budget requests from Conference Committees and submit request to Board. Board Finance Committee will decide if we can fund 100% or a portion of it. The last two years the Conference Committees have received nearly all of what they asked for. Conference Committees have spent about 8% of budget requested.
16. Contact Board Finance Committee via web site or through Pam Martin.

Questions:

1. What is budgeted to conference committees?
 - a. Last year it was about \$12,000. The CFC takes this and allocates it to the various Conference committees.
2. What literature are we actually selling? Should the CLC remove drafts of literature we're selling from the CLC Google Drive?
 - a. Discuss answer later, perhaps in committee.
3. How was investing in Treasury Funds determined?
 - a. Board Decision. Hasn't been added to – self growing fund. Treasury Funds are category 1 - lowest-risk funds.
4. An Intergroup is looking into creating a separate entity with non-profit status and getting insurance. Can the Board provide help?
 - a. Board does not share Tax ID number with Intergroups. Board cannot advise, but can provide experience. Intergroup would have to apply for 501(c)3. Intergroup would have to apply for a Tax ID number and apply for 501(c)3 status on its own.
5. What do conference committees do to submit a budget request?
 - a. Earl D., CFC chair, answers. Use the Budget Request Form given to each committee chair. There is room to list 3 projects on the form. Enter committee name, projects, and a budget request number. Give a copy to CFC, CCC, and Pam. CFC compiles and asks board for money. Board allocates money. If it's the same, there's no problem. If board allocates less than the CFC asked for, then the CFC negotiates among themselves and with the committee chairs to determine committee budgets. When a committee spends money on a project, the chair submits an expense requests to the CFC and the person who spent the money is reimbursed.
6. Not a question but a comment. Attendance at meetings goes up and down, and strength of recovery goes up and down. Perhaps the drop in donations is just a fluctuation.
7. Has the board considered an endowment to help get through peaks and troughs?
 - a. This has been discussed by the Board, the BFC, and the CFC. There are no firm answers at this point, however.
8. What is the drop in 7th Tradition as a percentage of income?
 - a. About 1%.
9. What are 7th Tradition contributions from foreign countries like?
 - a. BFC chair did not break down contributions by intergroup or by country. Winter Newsletter shows individual donations from groups and intergroups.
10. From the CFC perspective, we need the fellowship to have enough cash to carry the message to the addict who still suffers. Please carry this message back to your groups and intergroups.

Housekeeping and Announcements.

Session adjourned.

Concepts Presentation, Tuesday, August 2 2016, 5:00 to 6:00 PM

Roles:

- Facilitator – Nancy G.
- Assistant Facilitator – Dave G.

Announcement: Lisa C. asks for help answering the Question of the Day for *the Journal*. Passed around a clipboard with the question and sheets for written answers.

Concepts Presentation: Presented by Gabriel G., Vice-Chair Conference Charter Committee

Reading of the Twelve Concepts from *The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated* by Alcoholics Anonymous World Service, Inc. Twelve selected individuals come to the microphone to each read the statement of one concept.

This presentation is interactive, so feel free to ask questions. It's about experience, strength, and hope and not about shaming anyone. It's to grow and learn.

Show of hands: who has heard of the Concepts? Who hasn't heard of the Concepts? Who has no familiarity with what the Concepts are? How many do a Concepts study? Sacramento Intergroup studies one Tradition and one Concept every month. CCC does a Concept study every month. Take the presentation and the handouts back to your intergroup and encourage doing a study of the concepts.

1. A.A. Triangle:
 - Unity, Represented by Twelve Traditions
 - Recovery, Represented by the Twelve Steps
 - Service, Represented by the Twelve Concepts
 - Altogether we have 36 Principles
 - Individuals recover with the Steps. Groups recover with the Traditions. World Service recovers with the Concepts.
2. History of S.L.A.A. Twelve Concepts:
 - 2008-2009: Started having discussions about how S.L.A.A. could use the Concepts
 - 2010: IFD for use of Concepts for S.L.A.A.
 - 2011: Motion to form Conference Concepts Adaptation Committee – CCAC.
 - 2012: Motion to approve Twelve Concepts
 - 2016: Motion to incorporate Concepts into the By-Laws
3. Each year since incorporating the Concepts, we've done a study of 3 Concepts. We've already done 1-2-3 and 4-5-6. This year, we are studying Concepts 7-8-9. Details in this presentation on the Concepts study were borrowed from A.A.
4. Reading of Concept 7: The Articles of Incorporation and the By-Laws of the Fellowship are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. Although the Conference Charter is a legal document; it also relies on tradition and the power of the S.L.A.A. purse for final effectiveness.
5. Reading of the text of Concept 7 in the A.A. Illustrated Concepts.
6. Concept 7 Checklist:
 - Do we act responsibly regarding the "power of the purse"?
 - Do we realize that the practical and spiritual power of the Conference will nearly always be superior to the legal power of the B.O.T.?
7. Questions and Answers for Concept 7:
 - There was at least one instance where the Board did not implement a binding decision made by the conference. There was a substantial minority opinion and the Board listened to that as well.

- Does it work the other way around? The Board passes something and the individual groups don't implement it due to money or a violation of Traditions?
 - Delegates to the Conference have been chosen by their groups and intergroups and they have the Right of Decision. Since the Board controls funding, the Board would not make a decision that the Conference couldn't fund.
 - What does the Board do about the international aspect of the Fellowship? They may have other opinions on anonymity and privacy.
 - "Binding on the Board" means the Board has the right to decide. This idea is not in A.A., so where does it come from?
 - A vote of 2/3 of seated delegates makes something binding on the board. However, the board can use their decision-making power. Non-binding means the Board has the ultimate decision on whether or implement. Groups can decide not to follow a Board decision because they are autonomous.
 - Keep in mind there is a difference between what is legal and what is spiritual, or what is ethical.
8. Reading of Concept 8: The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, including their ability to hire staff.
9. Reading of the text of Concept 8 in the A.A. Illustrated Concepts. The board has the responsibility to delegate so that it is not burdened with the day-to-day operations of the office. But the Board does provide oversight to the office.
10. Concept 8 Checklist:
- How can the business term "custodial oversight" apply to the trustees' relationship to the FWS office?
 - Does my home group subscribe to the F.W.S. Newsletter? The Journal? Do I?
11. Questions and Answers for Concept 8:
- The Board of Trustees doesn't oversee the individual groups. They oversee Fellowship-Wide Services. The Board does not have the authority as "oversight" to come to a group and tell them they're not following Traditions or Concepts.
 - The Board doesn't answer all questions from groups, intergroups, or committees. They may delegate the answer to the F.W.S. office if that's the appropriate entity to answer the questions.
 - This concept tasks the Board with protecting the fellowship from Conference decisions that are too costly or not legal.
 - What if a group pays for a subscription to the Journal, but sells it to people at groups? Is that following the Concepts?
 - The Journal is considered literature, and some meetings sell literature. Some give it away. Some meetings have a lending library to loan literature to members.
 - A lot of questions received by the office on Steps and Traditions have been collected by the CSTCC. The discussions are available on the web site.
12. Reading of Concept 9: Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership must be assumed by the Board of Trustees.
13. Reading of the text of Concept 9 in the A.A. Illustrated Concepts.
14. Concept 9 Checklist:

- Do we discuss how we can best strengthen the composition and leadership of our future trusted servants?
- Do we recognize the need for group officers? What is our criteria for election?
- Do we sometimes give a position to someone “because it would be good for them”?
- Do I set a positive leadership example?

15. Questions and Answers on Concept 9:

- Just because a position is vacant does not mean that I have to fill it. If a position is not vacant, then someone willing to serve cannot fill it.
- Has there ever been a time when you needed to ask someone to step down from a position? And how do the Concepts work in this situation?
 - CSM has a section on conflict resolution process. This can be applied on the group, intergroup, committee, or subcommittee level.

Housekeeping and Announcements.

Session adjourned.

Wednesday, August 3 2016, General Assembly, 8:00 – 9:30 AM

Opening – Moment of Silence followed by Serenity Prayer and reading of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts.

Roles:

Facilitator – Gabriel G.

Assistant Facilitator – Trevor G.

Backup Facilitator – Amy G.

Announcement of the Question of the Day from the Journal.

Distribution of the 4th ABM Agenda and Appendices

Web Site Presentation, Wednesday, August 3 2016, 8:15 – 8:30 AM

Beth S., F.W.S. Webmaster

Beth has been webmaster for going on 10 years.

What’s Going On:

702 Registered Groups, 81 Registered Intergroups. There are still a lot of groups not registered. Beth passed around forms for delegates to take back to groups and intergroups.

Website had 287,912 unique visitors in 2015.

Approx. 5,220 pages link to us on the internet. Those links come from:

Intergroup Website pages.

Counseling practices, hospitals, universities, and addiction treatment centers.

Articles in the NY Daily News, Huffington Post, Psychology Today, and VH1's Dr. Drew. On many of these, S.L.A.A. is the only S-Program mentioned.

210 Countries Reached in 2015, up 2 from 2014.

Top 10 Countries: United States, Philippines, Great Britain, Canada, Ukraine, France, Russian Federation, Germany, China, and Poland.

F.W.S. Website fields over 100 support and outreach emails per month.

What does the F.W.S. Website Currently Provide?

Source of all S.L.A.A. Literature:

the 8 Core Documents of S.L.A.A. in 19 languages.

Basic Text/Pamphlets/other recovery items – Basic Text available in paperback and on Amazon Kindle and Apple iBook.

Worldwide Meeting Directory, Intergroups, Face-to-Face groups, Telephone meetings, Online Meetings. Free digital Starter Kits and Meeting formats.

MP3 Audio of Journal issues and Speaker Selections, ongoing project.

Online Tools like F.W.S. Contributions, ABM Registrations, and Surveys.

Committee Resources, Projects, Documents. Committees have a Committee Corner on the website where they can post events and ask for participation from the fellowship.

Event Listings – If you have events to post on the web site, contact Beth S via link on web site.

Contacts for F.W.S. Office, Board of Trustees, and Conference Committees via email.

The Journal available in paper and digital formats with 33 digital back issues available, and growing.

Quarterly F.W.S. Newsletter, over 3600 subscribers. Newsletter is now sent using third-party service. It's faster and more reliable.

What's New

New Website – Taken 1 year to build:

Mobile Friendly – will adapt to computers and devices for a much more user friendly experience.

Cleaner Design – Aside from its look, the old website tried to be all things on the front page. It resulted in a cluttered and unclear message. The suggestion was made last year to focus the home page on the newcomer. We implemented that suggestion. Members and those in service can now find their tools on the Member Resources and Conference Service tabs.

Built in WordPress: Powerful Content Management System and can easily grow.

Secure – will be explained in the next section of presentation.

New Tradition Questions Search – Over the years, the Conference Steps, Traditions, and Concepts Committee (CSTCC) has answered questions about topics pertaining to the Traditions. Topics range from difficulties with members and group conscience issues to meeting safety and literature copyrights. These articles were hidden in PDF files on the committee page where they were not being seen. With the new website, we extracted each question to its own page and archived them all into a searchable database.

Easier Committee Contacts – Contacts used to be separate from the Committee Pages, which meant more clicks to ask a question. We incorporated the search forms into the pages and simplified the links. The contacts are also in more places so they can be more easily found.

Investments in Security and Reputation of S.L.A.A. on the web:

Purchased an SSL Certificate. This encrypts your visit to the F.W.S. website with the same secure protection used when you shop online.

Provide Security and Trust for visitors

Upgraded to dedicated hosting and a static IP address. We no longer share our hosting and IP with other website customers.

Reputation not based on others

While it is less expensive to use shared hosting, we made the investment to separate ourselves so that only we determine our reputation online.

New online store –

Mobile Friendly – Shopping experience is much easier store will adapt to devices.

More modern design – looks better and easier to navigate. If it's not easier, let Beth know.

Wish List – Add items to purchase later

Accepts PayPal – Popular request, implemented on new store

25% Off International Orders – This is to help offset the high costs of shipping large orders overseas.

New Downloadable Item System – Our old system was expensive to maintain and cumbersome. Digital downloads now handled by a well-known third party system, less expensive and delivers files quickly and securely.

What's Next

Continuing to develop the website and online store. We need FEEDBACK from S.L.A.A. community if something doesn't work or if you want a new feature. You help shape what we do next, so keep telling us what you need.

Developing the New Group and Intergroup Database. This will be based on the feedback from the upcoming IFD on the subject.

Expand the Digital Audio selections available.

Discussions are ongoing for expanding what will be available on Apple iBook and Amazon Kindle to help International members get more of their literature online.

Developing ideas for more free outreach materials online such as public service announcements and downloadable materials to help groups and Intergroups get the word out in their areas.

Information sheet passed around: One side is a summary of webmaster's report. The other side contains the correct links to important pages on the new F.W.S. website. Please take it back to your Intergroups and use it to update your websites.

Questions:

Is there any potential for using the web service to store committee work instead of using Google Drive?

Beth can send this request to the Programs and Membership Committee

Information sheet says 7 Core Document, but presentation says 8.

The 8th is the Concepts.

What is the web site doing to keep local meeting information up-to-date?

This is an ongoing issue. There is an IFD on this subject at this ABM. Office relies on groups/intergroups to notify of changes. Some groups don't even notify their intergroup. Some groups aren't registered. Some groups are registered but don't know they are registered.

People get errors on the web site. It says "page isn't working".

This is an ongoing intermittent issue, so it's very difficult to find and fix. Beth S has been trying to fix it. How can the web site help with electronic literature for international members?

Working on making some of the literature electronic and trying to secure copyright. Digital content is cheaper to produce and distribute. This is one reason why there is a digital Journal. Online store gives 25% off order for international customers.

Web site can detect if someone is visiting from outside the USA.

How does the website help members in a foreign language?

We're trying to do better about linking search terms for foreign words.

Conference Translation Committee and international membership has translated core documents into 19 languages. Each language has a landing page with info about S.L.A.A. with core documents and links to international web sites.

Can our membership do anything to increase our presence in search rankings, such as writing articles about current hot-button issues?

Traditions prevent us from writing articles and asking outside groups to link to us. We have posts on the internet letting people know we exist, including places on the internet where people act out.

Board Programs and Membership Committee brainstorms things that can be done to serve members, including a QR code to take members to the S.L.A.A. home page. Web page has links to foreign-language landing pages.

Poland Intergroup is interested in outreach to countries to the East, i.e. Ukraine and Russia. Delegate will talk to Beth at the conference.

Who Are We Reaching, Wednesday, August 3 2016, 8:45 – 9:15 AM

Pam Martin, General Manager

The numbers in this presentation are from July 1 2015 through June 30 2016.

What is being Shipped/Ordered:

We've received 2277 orders.

1619 were physical packages mailed from the office.

288 MP3 audio downloads, e.g. single-issue Journal MP3.

212 miscellaneous physical shipments, e.g. CHIC outreach mailing to inmates.

109 orders for Journal (new subscribers or renewals)

47 other download-only items, e.g. group starter kit.

Who Are We Shipping To:

1486 of the 1619 orders shipped within the United States, 133 shipped outside the USA.

67 to Europe and the United Kingdom.

34 to North America (outside the USA).

21 to Australia and New Zealand.

7 to Asia.

2 to South America.

2 to Africa.

None to Antarctica.

Who Receives the Journal:

We used to have an outside company print the Journal and mail it for us. We now print it and mail it from the office. Office staff prints and staples it, labels envelopes, stamps them, and takes them to post office.

As of June 30, 148 people receive the physical paper Journal. 22 of those go outside the United States: 15 to Canada.

2 to Germany.

1 each to Sweden, Switzerland, Iceland, Belgium, New Zealand.

Who Receives the e-Journal:

The digital e-Journal is great for international subscribers because there is no mail delay, no customs, it doesn't cost \$3-4 for postage.

As of June 30, 82 people subscribe to the digital Journal: 48 1-year subscriptions and 34 2-year subscriptions.

Who is Buying the eBook:

The eBook is sold on iTunes and amazon.com.

2,075 downloads of the eBook this year.

Most are in the US, but many other countries purchased the eBook in English also: New Zealand, India, Spain, Norway, Chile, Peru, Malta.

Several are to new countries that have not ordered eBooks before.

Questions:

Why is the Audio Book on CD so expensive at \$43?

It requires significant time (2-3 hours) to burn all the CDs and put them in the plastic case.

How do eBook downloads in 2015 compare to 2014?

Sales of eBook are within 50-100 of what was sold last year. It's a steady seller. Every month we make \$800-\$1100 in royalties on the eBook.

Can you explain group and intergroup registration?

People will call the office about going to listed meetings but no one is there. Office will try to reach intergroup about it, but sometimes there's no group contact information. and/or intergroup contact info is out-of-date. If groups are no longer meeting or change their time or location, please update the group registration. This is critical information needed by the addict who still suffers.

Registering helps the F.W.S. office correctly acknowledge your group when it sends a donation.

Don't wait for the group to get bigger before registering. Registering the group with F.W.S. helps suffering addicts find your meeting.

A lot of computers do not have a CD player in them anymore. Have we thought about selling the Basic Text on a flash drive instead of CDs?

This had not been considered. Before doing this, it's important to remember that MP3s of the audio book were available and were pirated and put online.

Can't see a telephone number on the web site. How does a newcomer find this information?

It's on the "Contact Us" link on the web site. The address and office fax number are also there.

What do you suggest if a therapist or mental health professional calls the office?

Check the resources on the web site. Read everything and educate themselves. Download the “For the Professional” pamphlet. Order pamphlets. There is not currently a packet of outreach materials for professionals.

How can groups and intergroups promote the online meetings and the telephone meetings, rather than relying on the office to communicate this information to newcomers?

How do intergroups communicate their meetings to F.W.S.? What information do you want?

F.W.S. office wants as much information as possible. Some intergroups send office their newsletter and paper meeting list of all area meetings. If an intergroup sends a paper meeting list, Pam can keep that information useful and Christina can use it in the office to keep track of it.

Some meetings do not want their information published on a web site.

Board Reports – 2 minutes each. Glenn S. serves as timekeeper

Board of Trustees – Steve B., chair. Board meets monthly. Regular duties include going over reports and approving financials. Approved policy to increase donation limit. This policy was voted by the Conference 2 years ago, it hadn’t been done earlier due to an oversight. Approved purchase of copy machine for the office. Created the S.L.A.A. and Social Media document. Approved QR codes. Working on Translation information and creating Translation guidelines. Rita H from Montreal is the new Newsletter Editor. Increased scholarship for international delegates by one more scholarship. International orders now have a 25% discount to cover shipping costs and relative strength of the US dollar.

Board Outreach Committee – Rick B. Non-board members on committee: Beth S and A.J. J. Rich K was a non-board member until he was appointed to the Board. Updated Board Outreach Committee section to the Strategic Plan to better match 12-Step language. Developing resources to establish a presence online. Working with CPIC YouTube guidelines and audio guidelines for future S.L.A.A. podcasts. Working with Board Programs and Membership Committee to draft a membership survey. Drafting a document to help intergroups with billboard, bus bench, and printed media outreach. Reviewed talking points for volunteers at professional conferences. Started developing a list of handouts for Society for Advancement of Sexual Health (SASH) conference – in Austin Texas this year – and working with Austin intergroup to make sure we have enough people for the table. Created a post-outreach debriefing questionnaire to gain experience, strength, and hope from individuals who participated in conferences.

Board Development Committee – Jack S. Focuses on internal activities, systems, and procedures of the B.O.T. to ensure its long-term effectiveness. Determine what qualifications are needed for new Trustees and recruit candidates, presenting them to the conference or the B.O.T. Facilitates appointment, nomination, and election process. Takes the lead with issues related to B.O.T. terms. Review B.O.T. effectiveness. Assist the B.O.T. chair as needed. Manage the B.O.T. self-assessment process, strategic planning, and retreats. Supports B.O.T. to ensure meetings are focused on strategic matters rather than operational issues. Periodically reviews bylaws and internal policies and procedures and make recommendations as needed. Design orientation of new B.O.T. members as well as making sure members become integrated functionally and socially. Verifies that all B.O.T. members are on at least one committee. Recommends changes in policies in response to questions about 12 Steps and 12 Traditions and provides assistance to F.W.S. Office when answering such inquiries. Provides guidance to the F.W.S. office on policies adopted by the B.O.T. Functions as a resource to the F.W.S. office in

connection to the ABC/M. Reviews and updates the B.O.T. manual. Jack S is chair. Also on committee is Board member Rick B. Non-board members are Seth S, Susanne D, and Scott W.

Board Programs and Membership Committee – Susan G. Non-board members on committee are Beth S, Ashly, and Jeremy from San Antonio. Discussed and recommended to the board that intergroups be allowed to post core documents on their websites. Most of what BPMC does is advisory in nature. Examines and issue and makes a recommendation to the board for further discussion and decision. This year, approved translations of copyrighted Conference-approved literature. Copyrights and Translation is a subcommittee of BPMC. They produced a lot of documents regarding translations and they are currently looking at revising translation guidelines. Current directions for intergroups on submitting translations are difficult to understand, so BPMC is working to clarify this. Discussed idea of creating blog or message board and made recommendation to the Board for that.

Announcements and Housekeeping

Session adjourned.

Wednesday, August 3 2016, General Assembly, 2:15 – 3:30 PM

Roles:

Facilitator – Steve B.

Assistant Facilitator – Phillip W.

Backup Facilitator – Ashly M.

Announcement of the Question of the Day from the Journal.

There are 48 out of 52 delegates seated. We have a quorum.

Committee Reports:

Conference Anorexia Committee – P.A. K. is chair. Vice-chair is open. Meetings are 4th Sunday of every month. CAC is still working on Anorexia 4-5-6-7 booklet. Anorexia Recovery Tools draft document has been submitted to the CLC. CAC is reevaluating the Anorexia Meeting Starter Kit.

Conference By-Laws Committed – No one in attendance to deliver report.

Conference Charter Committee – Phillip W. is chair and Gabriel G. is the vice-chair. Meetings are on the 1st Sunday of every month. Agenda Review Subcommittee is Stephen F. (chair), David B., John D., Madeline S., and Christiane S. BOT chair, CCC chair, and ARS chair have reviewed and approved 2015 ABM/C minutes. Ad Hoc ARS Process subcommittee has been meeting to revise the ARS process. They hope to have it complete for use in the 2016-2017 conference year. Conference Service Manual (CSM) Revision Working Group has revised the first 3 chapters of the CSM, including Table of Contents and appendices. CCC is always looking for new members.

Conference Diversity Committee – Jason S. is chair, Dave G. is vice-chair. Meetings are 4th Sunday of every month. CDC was inactive at 2015 ABM/C. This year, CDC reviewed their Diversity Statement and

Diversity Questionnaire. CDC also reviewed draft literature and attended 12x12 Draft Subcommittee conference calls.

Conference Finance Committee – Earl D. is chair, Jason S. is vice-chair. Meetings are 1st Sunday of every month. CFC submitted “designated giving” motion to 2016 agenda. CFC requested changes to CSM and appendices to help committees track budgets. CFC continues to seek suggestions regarding fundraising.

Conference Healthy Relationships Committee – Nancy G. is chair. Meetings are 1st Sunday of every month. CHRC has drafted a Healthy Relationships pamphlet and put it on the 2016 agenda as an IFD. Deactivated domestic FreeConferenceCall.com account and set up international account for members outside the US.

Conference Intergroup Communication Committee – Phillip W. is chair, Stephen F. is vice-chair.

Meetings are 3rd Sunday of every month. Started using Dropbox account to secure with password documents with personal information of intergroup contacts. Reaching out to intergroups worldwide to confirm FWS contact information. Created a forum for Lone Groups to communicate with intergroups.

CICC is looking for members to help with contacting intergroups and with the S.L.A.A. Intergroup Forum. Conference Journal Committee – Lisa C is chair and editor. Meetings are 1st Saturday of every month. CJC production team and FWS office have met all deadlines for producing Journal issues #156-161.

Starting with #159, the Journal is printed at the FWS office. Working on summary archive of Journal articles, purpose is to make it searchable for finding articles relating to specific topics for focus booklets. 100 calendars were printed. Each delegate gets one. First 50 new Journal subscribers will be offered a free calendar. Discussing a digital download of the calendar. Anorexia focus booklet and Step 6 focus booklet are available on e-Journal site. Step 7 focus booklet in progress.

Conference Literature Committee – Tim P. is chair. Meetings are 4th Saturday of every month. Worked this year to improve processes of document submission, improve communication with writing groups, get members to participate in the CLC process, and help CLC members understand the process of moving approved projects forward. Submitted revised 40 Questions as motion on this year’s agenda. Also submitted 3 projects as IFDs: Chapter 4 Companion Guide, Step Questions Workbook, and Healthy Relationships Pamphlet.

Conference Member Retention Committee - No one present.

Conference Hospitals and Institutions Committee - CHIC has had high turnover this year, losing 2 chairs and 1 vice-chair and a few other active members. The Pen Pal program has been canceled by the BOT. CHIC has a therapist outreach program to educate therapists on S.L.A.A. CHIC requests volunteers for the committee.

Conference Public Information Committee – David B. is chair and Jay G. is vice-chair. Meetings are on the 3rd Sunday of every month. CPIC will hold chair and vice-chair elections on Sept 18 meeting. Still working on compiling the Outreach Kit containing outreach materials. Last year, submitted the Suggestions to Public Outreach as an IFD. As a result, CPIC decided to revisit it every 2 years with next revision at 2017 ABM/C. CPIC is now responsible for communicating with the Interfellowship Forum. Registered the domain name and two members worked on designing the web site with links to SCA, SRA, and COSA. CPIC. Also started discussion on compiling information to help intergroups build web sites.

Conference Service Committee – Co-chairs are Danette S. and Rob K. CSC had been inactive since 2015. First meeting was July 2016. Cartoon Service Pamphlet was presented at IFD at 2015 ABM. Plan to

present as motion at 2017 ABM. Trying to increase distribution of draft literature. CSC has copies of draft literature for ABM and IRC this year. Starting to look into creating a non-cartoon pamphlet on service.

Conference Sponsorship Committee – Currently no committee chair, but Cathy G. is vice-chair.

Meetings are 1st Monday of every month. Long-Distance Sponsorship Program: During the past year there have been 165 email inquiries and 25 phone inquiries from people who cannot find sponsors in their area. Board canceled the Long-Distance Sponsorship program due to legal issues. CSPC has been discussing new ways to connect people to sponsors such as using local intergroups to connect people. Also worked on various pieces of draft literature on Sponsoring Anorectics, Co-Sponsorship, Recovery Partners, and Service Sponsorship.

Conference Steps Traditions Concepts Committee – Chair is Dave G. Meetings are on 4th Sunday of every month. CTSCC will hold chair and vice-chair elections during Sept 25 conference call. CTSCC discussed previous writing on Attraction vs. Promotion and did not see need to change it. Reviewed a question on perceived “poaching” of meeting to nearby intergroups. Answer was sent to submitter and posted to web and FWS newsletter. Updated mission statement to include Concepts. Webmaster Beth S. archived all questions in the CSTCC archive and made them searchable on the web. CSTCC is reviewing the draft Twelve Concepts booklet and continues to answer questions from the web.

Conference Translation Committee – Ron G. is interim chair. Maarten V. is vice-chair. Meetings are on 4th Sunday of every month. Translation Guidelines have been approved by the Board and posted on FWS website. Submitted IFD on copyright issues related to translation. Continue working on international issue of the Journal. Need about 10 shares for the issue. CTC is constantly seeking members who are multilingual and/or interested in translation.

Vote Counters are Jaki Jo H. and Trevor G.

Agenda -

Motion 16o02/15-03 - That all S.L.A.A. F.W.S. Literature be available in electronic format.

Board of Trustees is in support of this motion.

Pro:

In support from UK Intergroup. eBook format.

People who are vision impaired can have devices read documents to them. We can do this in a way to keep our copyrights and keep them secure.

Makes reading the basic text in public more anonymous with an eBook.

Con:

How will e-literature be protected with copyright? How much money will the fellowship lose in literature sales?

How much money does the fellowship spend protecting the copyright?

Point of Clarification: Can someone answer the questions about money?

First Vote - 30 seconds of silence before voting.

43 in Favor
 4 Opposed
 3 Abstentions

The vote is not unanimous. Those in the minority speak.

In the original motion, "A great deal of time, money, and resources are spent protecting our copyright." Our contributions are down so low and we are very dependent for sales right now. If literature is available on web, we will lose that revenue. This year, we will just break even financially. It's important that literature be accessible. There is something to be said for coming to a meeting and getting literature there. Eventually the literature will be available.

Second vote:

29 in Favor
 13 Opposed
 8 Abstentions

Motion passes, but not by a 2/3 majority in which it would be binding on the board.

Explanation of Binding vs. Non-Binding

Announcements and Housekeeping

Session adjourned.

Wednesday, August 3 2016, General Assembly, 3:45 – 4:45 PM

Roles:

Facilitator – Anthony P.

Assistant Facilitator – Rick B.

Backup Facilitator – Paul T.

Item **16o03/15-09** – Motion: That BOT institute a Giving Program for designated projects.

Board of Trustees asks for an amendment to say the Board of Trustees **may** study, design, and institute a Giving Program.

Committee Comments:

The Board of Trustees is in favor of this motion.

What is a Donor? An individual, group, or intergroup. We do not accept outside contributions.

This came up to the Board before but was rejected because it would mean extra accounting expenses or the potential for auditing. Board feels that this would be extra accounting, but we already have an

accountant auditing our books. Not afraid of an audit. We'd have to include specifics on giving programs in our bookkeeping and reports.

Will donors be notified on the success of a project?

If a project is canceled, what happens to funds? Board says donors would be notified and asked if they want a refund or move donation to general fund.

Is there a limit for a group or individual donation? Individual donations are limited to \$20,000 per year. Groups are not limited.

Pros:

May increase giving.

Board of Trustees chooses projects. Donors do not just give to get something they want.

Cons:

Seems we are giving too much weight to individual donors.

Too complicated. How do funds get managed for low-interest areas.

Seems not in keeping with Twelve Tradition.

We have 50 out of 51 voting members present.

Voting – Jaki Jo H. and Trevor G. are vote counters:

31 in Favor

12 Opposed

7 Abstain

Vote is not unanimous.

Minority Opinion:

Would like more clarification on why Board Travel could be a designated giving program.

Comfortable with Study and Design, but not with Institute.

Fears of spiritual principles. Undue Influence.

What if a donor gave money and the money was there but the service wasn't?

Voting – Jaki Jo H. and Trevor G. are vote counters:

31 in Favor

13 Opposed

6 Abstain

This item has passes, but not by a 2/3 majority. It is not binding on the board.

Item **16n04/16-01** – Motion: Change the By-Laws to incorporate the Twelve Concepts.

Rick B (Board of Trustees) reads a summary of changes to by-laws. Include Twelve Concepts wherever By-Laws mention Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.

Committee Comments:

Board of Trustees – Board wants to incorporate Twelve Concepts into By-Laws.
CFC – CFC is in favor of this motion.

Why are the concepts not included in approved literature? Answer: we haven't gotten to it yet.

Pros:

None

Cons:

None

We have 50 out of 51 voting members present.

Voting – Jaki Jo H. and Trevor G. are vote counters:

48 in Favor

0 Opposed

2 Abstain

This motion has passed by group conscience by 2/3 majority.

Item **16n05/16-02** – IFD: Should F.W.S. maintain a searchable master list of all S.L.A.A. meetings?

Paul reads the item, intent, and requirements.

Committee Comments:

None

Can someone search for all intergroups or contacts? Contacts could cause anonymity concerns. It could be searchable though.

Time Limit for Comments: 10 minute. Limit statements to 1 minute or less.

Not trying to assume responsibility of Intergroups for meeting lists. Discussed just having group name, city, state, and a day. E.g. where is a group in this place on this day and time?

Florida had problem where one person could access meeting information on web. Some groups start up without registering with intergroup. F.W.S. office is contacted when meeting information is bad.

This could be a wonderful tool for sponsors or sponsees to find meetings when they travel. Seattle has difficulty getting information from meetings.

SF/EB creates their own list. If lists are not updated, will F.W.S. remove meeting from list?

If FWS links a meeting to an intergroup website, does intergroup have to list meeting location and time? Or does intergroup have ability to make meeting places private? Answer: up to intergroups to approve information.

Will there be XML or rules to update?

This is a bad idea. Providing links to local resources will suffice.

This is a good idea. Helps intergroups communicate with F.W.S. to aid addicts. Using automation tools would help.

Do we want to have meeting information for all countries? Keep it to English-speaking countries.
 Helps keep meeting information current for people looking for meetings.
 Against this to keep meeting information simple and allow intergroups to maintain information.
 AA does not have lone groups. Every meeting is in an intergroup.
 Need communication between intergroups and F.W.S.

Discussion is closed. There will be space on the 2017 Agenda for this item if the submitters wish to convert to a motion.

Wednesday, August 3 2016, General Assembly, 5:00 – 6:00 PM

Roles:

Facilitator – Andrew H.

Assistant Facilitator – Jaki Jo H.

Backup Facilitator – Jason S.

Item **16n06/16-03** – IFD: Step Questions Workbook.

Jason S. reads the item, intent, and requirements. Document is pages 1-41 of the Appendix.

Committee Comments:

Sponsorship Committee – In favor. Many people don't have sponsors and this is helpful.

Literature Committee – Step Questions and Chapter 4 Companion are similar but one is meant for a short "boot camp" and the other is for a longer session with a sponsor.

Submitter can speak – This has been useful for sponsees. Some feedback says not to reference AA literature, but Basic Text suggests reading AA Big Book.

Time Limit for Comments: 15 minutes. Limit to 1 minute or less.

This gives impression that this is the approved way to work the steps.

Like references to Basic Text and character defects. Likes amends now, amends later, amends never. Does not like all the references to AA.

What is the title? "SLAA Step Questions Workbook". If this references AA literature because there are pieces missing from that literature.

Los Angeles Intergroup reviewed it and ask everyone to look at this piece and support it for conference approval.

Wife is submitter. Worked on this with sponsees. Helpful as a workbook for working the steps. North Texas Intergroup is in favor of this. Concerned about "Came to believe" from AA Red Book.

SF/EB concerned about male pronoun for God. SLAA literature does not refer to God as "him". In favor of gender-neutral pronoun.

People in Montreal like this document. Very thorough way to work the steps. If this is conference approved, could be considered only way to work the steps.

Agree with some concerns, but overall love the questions. This is a huge need. Office gets questions "Do you have a step workbook?"

Good piece of work. Need to look at AA Big Book to see if this can be added to.
 My sponsor had me work the steps the Big Book way, so appreciate that. Needs disclaimer that this is not the only way to work the steps.
 Intergroup really appreciates this workbook.
 Appreciates the time and effort put into this workbook. Important to acknowledge that there are multiple ways to work the steps. Not comfortable with “qualifier” worksheet. That takes emphasis away from myself.
 Beautiful workbook. Looking forward to using this for workshops. Should adopt Chicago style of writing or Psychiatric style for consistency.
 Likes the workbook. Likes the idea of a disclaimer that this is not the only way to work the steps. “Take what you like and leave the rest”. Users should be able to choose exercises. Useful and thought-provoking.
 Palm Beach Intergroup is in favor of this. A lot of people work the Gentle Path, but this gets into more specifics of Sex and Love Addiction.
 A lot in UK use the HOW program, which is not CLC approved. HOW has very thorough questions.

Time has expired. No one else standing up for comments. Discussion is closed. There will be space on the 2017 Agenda for this item if the submitters wish to convert to a motion.

Item **16n07/16-04** – IFD: Step Questions Workbook.

Jason S. reads the item, intent, and requirements. Document is pages 42-60 of the Appendix.

Committee Comments:

Conference Literature Committee – This addresses people working the steps without a sponsor. Boot Camp like it’s done in AA. Tried to get away from “Gentle Path”.

Conference Sponsorship Committee – This is a much shorter version and a great tool for those struggling to find sponsorship. Recommended as a tool.

Submitter can speak – CLC has already commented.

Grateful that there is more literature at ABM. CLC committee session clarified distinction between this and Step Questions Workbook. Useful tools.

Tampa Bay appreciates that comments were incorporated into document.

Very grateful for step literature to help people. Issue – Step 2 questions are not open-ended.

Answers are just Yes/No.

Grew from people at meetings talking about everything about steps.

This may reach other people. It has a breadth.

Page number references do not link back to eBook.

Language could be simplified to be more accessible.

Intergroup appreciates this literature. Would appreciate support of these pieces being supported.

Love the glossary. It’s great to define these terms. Likes that this is a good short step-study for a weekend retreat.

If this is not approved, could non-English Intergroups translate this and use it? Talk to the BOT Chair after the session.

Like glossary words if we use them different than a dictionary.

Palm Beach Country Intergroup is in favor of all draft literature. This has helped locally.

Needs preface that this should be worked with a sponsor.

Currently working through this workbook with sponsor. Likes the idea of a long step workbook and a short step workbook. Both options.

Agree it should be worked with a sponsor. Addicts cannot be trusted alone because they tend to distort it.

A lot of people think "Gentle Path" is how people are supposed to work the steps. People come into meetings and don't want or can't get a sponsor. This helps those people understand what the steps are from material out of the Basic Text.

Time has expired. No one else standing up for comments. Discussion is closed. There will be space on the 2017 Agenda for this item if the submitters wish to convert to a motion.

Announcements and Housekeeping

Session adjourned

Thursday, August 4 2016, General Assembly, 8:00 – 9:30 AM

Opening – Moment of Silence followed by Serenity Prayer and reading of the Twelve Steps in Polish, Twelve Traditions in Spanish, and Twelve Concepts in Dutch.

Roles:

- Facilitator – Rick B.
- Assistant Facilitator – Phillip W.
- Backup Facilitator – Maarten K.
- Timekeeper – Andrew E.
- Vote Counters – David R. and Glenn S.
- Spiritual Reminder – Paul T.

Question of the Day from the Journal.

We have 49 out of 51 delegates in the room. We have a quorum.

Item **16n08/16-05** – IFD: CHRC Healthy Relationships Pamphlet.

Assistant Facilitator reads the item, intent, and requirements. Document is found on pages 61-65 of the Appendix.

Committee Comments:

- There are no committee comments in the margins of the Agenda.

- CLC (Tim P.) – CLC has reviewed the Pamphlet or Item through the process and evaluated whether it aligns with the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts. The CLC has approved this document.
- CHRC (Nancy G.) – This is a rich moment for us, getting feedback from a broader audience. This document responds to needs of people in the fellowship.
- CHRC (Matthew N.) – Nancy and the rest of the committee has worked very hard on this item.

Time Limit for Comments: 15 minutes total. Limit to 1 minute or less. If there is still time after everyone who wishes to speak has spoken, people may speak for a second time. IFD Submitter or designated representative may speak first.

- CHRC is the submitter. Chair spoke during committee comments.
- This is about Healthy Relationships for anyone at any stage in their lives. Not just about romantic or sexual relationships. It's about closeness and familiarity with family, coworkers, and partners. This is a foundational document that could lead to other documents that expand our awareness for deeper healthy relationships.
- Draft was published in our intergroup newsletter along with the Unhealthy/Healthy Relationship Grid. The feedback was fabulous. People said it was the best newsletter ever. People want input into what is a healthy relationship. This should be a booklet. Could rival Anorexia 1-2-3 and Triggers as a Resource.
- Telephone meetings have just started a Thursday night Healthy Relationship meeting. Using this pamphlet and S.L.A.A. text, this meeting has grown from 20 to 38-40 women. This is a solution-based document. Clear about what a healthy relationship is, not just about dating. People liked it in face-to-face meetings too.
- The document is good up until the personal stories. Suggest removing that and replacing with something else, or expand on explanations without all the long stories.
- CHRC is one of the best-run committees. People are looking for any information about healthy dating. Looking forward to publication of this workbook.
- The list of healthy/unhealthy comes directly from a member in a Healthy Relationships meeting. Meeting regularly reads the document. It's very helpful.
- My area has three meetings that use this draft or part of it, the feedback has been very rewarding. People find it very grounding and specific. Gives them a focus on what they're doing in relationships. Our intergroup supports this document.
- Please read this document. Feedback on this document has been hugely positive.
- Appreciated in my area and it's very helpful. Only in the stories are the Steps and Traditions mentioned. It would strengthen the document to show how Steps and Traditions lead to healthy relationships.
- My area has very few people who have completed 12 Steps or have long-term recovery. People need help with Healthy Relationships.
- I'm very happy to see this. Looking at this list gives me hope. It would be very good for this program if there were more focus on the positive. It's good to have a document that focuses on positive things.
- Personal stories would fit better in a booklet rather than a pamphlet. The stories are only place where Steps and Traditions are mentioned. Steps and Traditions are an important point of recovery, where the solution is.
- In my area, people revise their bottom line depending if they are single or new in recovery or in a relationship. This could be useful in the document.

- I get leery when things go to the therapist side. Include more about Steps and Traditions, service, sponsorship, meetings, prayer and meditation.
- I have a supportive relationship with my wife. I need to have a healthy relationship with wife and the rest will follow.
- I like this document. I had no experience with healthy relationships, but lots of experience with unhealthy relationships. I suggest an exercise to write down the qualities of a bad relationship. This helped me identify what a good relationship is because it was the opposite. I like idea of including Traditions.
- I'd like to see it include how Service work helps us build relationships.
- How do we get an electronic copy of the draft literature? Answer: CLC has created CDs for draft literature.

Discussion is closed. There will be space on the 2017 Agenda for this item if the submitters wish to convert this IFD to a motion.

Item **16n09/16-06** – Motion: Approve the updated Text of the “40 Questions for Self-Diagnosis of Sex and Love Addiction” (CLC reference id number 012-40) as conference-approved literature.

Phillip W. read the motion, intent, and requirements from pages 24-26 of the Agenda. The document is found on pages 66-72 of the Appendix.

Committee Comments not reflected in ABM Agenda:

- CLC (Tim P) – CLC has reviewed through the Literature Process and approved this document to move forward to the ~~ABM~~ Conference as having met the Traditions, Steps, and Concepts of S.L.A.A.
- Board of Trustees (Steve B.) – The Board is not in favor of this motion at this time because it would like to see more of the feedback from the Conference incorporated into the draft.

Friendly Amendment from Houston Intergroup: Move first question down in the list. (Have you ever had sex with someone you just met online, at a park, bookstore, bar, or public restroom?) Houston Intergroup feels using this as the first question would likely scare people away from the document. They are in favor of the question, just not having this as the first question. Author accepts the friendly amendment. There are also some grammatical changes the author/writing group has been made aware of.

Clarification: Proposed new 40 Questions are stated in document. Another attachment shows which questions of the original questions are remaining and which have been completely struck from the document. Attachment shows all the original 40 Questions and the revised 40 Questions. There are only two of the original 40 that were dropped. Attachment shows which were questions dropped and which were kept.

Comments are timed to 2 minutes each.

Pros:

- Intergroup (GDVI) is overall in favor of changes. Some people felt that computers are more a male way of acting out and many women disagreed with that. Some people felt that it put sex addicts before love addicts as there are more sex-related questions. We like that all questions

are addressed to both sex and love addicts. I really liked Question 30 and miss it, but I didn't like 40 Questions altogether anyway.

- We (?) are supportive of this with the friendly amendment. Several things we like about this document. This is timely and addresses a new generation coming into the fellowship: Millennials. A couple questions relate specifically to anorexia, which resonates highly with our Intergroup. There are no multiple questions within questions. The original 40 questions had 63-64 total questions. This has a better structure. It's better written and more succinct.
- Chicago Intergroup felt this was an improvement. There were concerns from the anorexia folks that there be 40 questions pertaining to that. According to professional researchers, over 80% of people with sexual dysfunction use pornography. I wish the document was very direct and clear about that. It alludes to it but doesn't say it.

Cons:

- Oppose frequency of word "ever" in multiple questions. Many people could answer these questions for something that happened once, but may not be a pattern. "Ever" doesn't need to be removed from everything, but the frequency of "ever" is overwhelming.
- Agree that there is a need to address internet concerns and cyber-related questions. There is still a concern that 40 questions are still more focused on sex addiction and not incorporate as much about love addiction. Love addicts could not relate to them. I can say "yes" to 11 of these 40, but to 30 out of 40 on the original. There are 3 specific anorexia questions, but it feels like 24 sex addiction questions and 18 love addiction questions. There could be confusion if the 40 Questions core document is different from 40 Questions on pamphlet.
- My Intergroup is not in support of this document. It's too sex heavy and not enough love-addiction focused. The original 40 Questions has a question about hijacking and the revolving door - we like that question. It speaks to insanity of disease and it gets a laugh. The Newcomer does not have a difficult time identifying with the old 40 Questions version. The Old-timer has difficulty identifying with new version. The old version questions are multi-purpose and they address technology, but not directly.

We have heard three Pro and three Con arguments. There is a motion on the floor to approve the updated text for the 40 Questions for Self-Diagnosis as conference-approved literature, with the amendment of moving the first question down.

Clarification: In the intent, it says Updated 40 Questions would become conference-approved literature and replace the 40 Questions pamphlet. It also says the updated version would in no way change or impede the established core document published in 1985. Answer: This revised 40 questions is meant to replace just the pamphlet in literature for sale, not the core document.

Clarification: The author will make some grammatical corrections, including removing the word "ever" from all but one of the questions.

Voting Options: A vote to approve the motion means we will be obligated to update the 40 Questions pamphlet to the text. A vote opposed to the motion means we will not be obligated to approve the update to the 40 Questions for Self-Diagnosis.

Are there any questions on the voting options only?

Clarification: Can we vote on something that will be changed after we vote on it? We have been told all “ever”s will be removed from the document except for one, but the fellowship does not know which one is intended to remain. Answer: All “ever”s will be removed except from Question 40 “Have you ever said to yourself I have to stop this”. All other questions will remove the word “ever”. Questions 1, 3, 9, 23, 24, 25, 28, and 38 will have “ever” removed from the text.

Question on Voting Options: If this passes, the pamphlet replaces the 40 questions. If this motion fails, can this be revised to reflect the discussion today come back as a motion next year? Other motions must wait 2 years to come back, but literature motions can come back the next year with revisions.

30 seconds of silence before the first vote.

Clarification: In my experience, whenever a motion – especially literature – is voted on and it passes, it is not edited and massaged after it has passed. The conference votes on what they see, not on an edited item that they will not see later. Can a document be edited after conference approval? Answer: The revision process of the Board is in Appendix L of the CSM. Board can make edits mindful of the group conscience of the conference. Board strives to edit no more than 25% of the document. If they edit more than that it is returned to the conference for approval. Corrections to grammar are not considered revision.

Clarification: What can the board do with the content of this document if it passes? Can the board illustrate what the changes would look like? The Revision Process is in Appendix L of the CSM. Given that the board is opposed to this motion, can the board explain how they might revise this if it passes? Answer: Board cannot answer this question at the time.

Clarification: If this motion fails, can this literature motion come back next year edited, or must it wait two years? Answer: According to ARS process, literature can be brought back next year.

Susan G. makes a Motion to table this Item to the next ABM. Bob G. seconds. A vote of yes will table Item 16n09/16-06 until next year. A vote of no will move the item for voting this year.

30 seconds of silence before voting on the motion to table.

Voting Options are “Yes” to table this item and “No” to not table this item. There are no abstentions.
29 in favor

21 opposed

There are 51 voting members in the room. One person did not vote, but this does not count as an abstention.

Challenge to group conscience. Clarification: can we have a challenge to group conscience to an up-down vote, such as this motion to table? Answer: Unsure. It’s not clear in the CSM, but we’re going to proceed as though this is a group conscience challenge to a motion.

30 seconds of silence before vote.

Vote on whether or not group conscience was attained.

32 say it is group conscience

15 say it is not group conscience

Vote to table does represent group conscience.

Announcements and Housekeeping

Session adjourned.

Thursday, August 4 2016, General Assembly, 2:15 – 3:30 PM

Roles:

- Facilitator – Danette S.
- Assistant Facilitator – Jack S.
- Backup Facilitator – Paul T.
- Timekeeper – Andrew H.

Question of the Day from the Journal.

Nomination of Jason S. to the Board of Trustees (Lisa C.). Jason accepts the nomination.

Nomination of Earl D. to the Board of Trustees (Dave G). Earl accepts the nomination.

Nomination of Melissa K. to the Board of Trustees (Matthew N.). Melissa accepts the nomination.

We have 48 out of 51 delegates in the room. We have a quorum.

Item **16n10/16-07** – IFD: Starting a National Speaker’s Bureau.

Danette S. reads the item. Jack S. reads the intent. Paul T. reads the requirements. ~~These are~~ The Item can be found on pages 27-33 of the Agenda.

Committee Comments not reflected in ABM Agenda:

- None

Time Limit for Comments: 15 minutes. Limit to 1 minute or less. If there is still time after everyone who wishes to speak has spoken, people may speak for a second time. IFD Submitter or designated representative may speak first.

- Submitter – The title is “Speaker’s Bureau”, but it should be “How to live the Twelfth Step.” I Received an invitation to come to California to speak for 10 minutes at a meeting. Wrote a story of the 72 hours in California, spoke at 6 meetings in California. Had a spiritual awakening during the 72 hours in California. Greater Delaware Valley Intergroup had a speaker event with someone who spoke at 10 meetings. Solicited feedback and summarized costs for getting the speaker.
- Austin Intergroup loves the idea. Recognize the intent is to bring experience of members with long-term sobriety to an area without long term sobriety. Concern that 5 years sobriety and 10 years in the program may be too stringent. Recommend sobriety requirement lowered to 3 years, as it is with the board of trustees.

- Not in favor of a speaker's bureau because no one person has a better message than another. We don't need to create S.L.A.A. celebrities. Is FWS going to pay for people to visit popular areas and ignore smaller areas? I don't think this is a workable or fair program.
- Sobriety requirement is too stringent. Not many women with that length of sobriety in my area.
- Not a fan of this idea. As a member of Narcotics Anonymous, I've seen what Speaker's Bureaus do to a fellowship. I heard the same message from the same person at four different meetings. I think there are better ways to carry the message. Carrying the message should be my own personal expense, not to the fellowship as a whole.
- Seems very complicated. It costs too much when we're strapped for cash and I'd rather spend money on new meetings and people who need help. Violates principle of anonymity, e.g. no one's experience is better than another's. Who decides who gets money for a speaker? Who decides who gets to be a speaker? Who decides who decides who gets to be a speaker? Etc.
- A visiting speaker spent a lot of time at Greater Delaware Valley Intergroup. Gave 3 significant ideas: newsletter, marketing toward women to make meetings more female friendly, making meetings more newcomer-friendly. These ideas were worth the cost.
- How could we fund this if we're barely breaking even? Overeater's Anonymous has a virtual speaker's bureau, which is a great way to get the 12-Step message to rural areas without a lot of meetings. There could be an easy way to send a free e-speaker to another area.
- I appreciate the intent for carrying the message. Bill Wilson was sober for 3 years when he wrote the AA Big Book. What looks like sobriety to me may not look like sobriety to you and vice-versa. This involves a lot of legalism, not about carrying the message. You can carry the message without the S.L.A.A. stamp of approval. Some things can be effective and informal.
- I appreciate the story and the Traditions. The amount of prescriptive direction is extraordinary. There needs to be more freedom for hosts when they have a speaker visit.
- Carrying the message is hard when you are pulling from the same pool of people all the time. This would be another way to carry the message and a newer way to do it. Bringing in a new speaker brings energy into a meeting.
- I echo concerns about financial responsibilities, especially given our financial situation. I have been more moved by someone new in the program and raw, bringing me back to the program than someone with many years of sobriety. Sobriety requirements and other conditions seem to be a lot of extra work.
- The UK brings in speakers for their conventions. They've had speakers from Australia come in and had some of the founding members of S.L.A.A. speak. They are asked why they can't bring more local people to speak? The Diversity Committee wants to know how to get more diverse speakers to share stories, so people in remote areas can hear these stories. This would mean people with disabilities, people who speak other languages.
- I'm not in favor of something that develops a celebrity culture. In the last 4 years, Poland S.L.A.A. Convention has had 4 consecutive guests from other countries (e.g. Netherlands, Sweden, UK). We gave criteria, like asking for sponsors and people who have worked the 12 Steps. We benefitted from these international speakers.
- North County San Diego Intergroup is concerned that this is putting people on pedestals and it favors large cities over small. In other programs, we often enjoyed other speakers at conferences.
- In Sweden, largest meeting has a speaker's meeting once a month and records them in MP3 files. They had a huge impact on me hearing other people sharing their journey. At the last conference, I was invited to speak, but I had less than 5 years sobriety and I saw that inspired other people.

- I like the idea of speakers but I don't like a speaker's bureau. I don't like the idea of a celebrity culture. A suggestion is to record ABM delegates sharing for 10-15 minutes. This helps develop a library of a lot of MP3s and a lot of resources to help addicts. If someone flew 1800 miles for a 10 minute share, why can't that person share for 10 minutes on an MP3 and then share it with the whole fellowship. This will get rid of the cost and help us to develop resources.
- This doesn't have to be an either/or, it can be a both/and. We can have recorded speakers and speakers who travel. Instead of being in fear about what might happen, why not be in excitement and hope about what could happen.

Discussion is closed. There will be space on the 2017 Agenda for this item if the submitters wish to convert this IFD to a Motion.

Item **16n11/16-08** – IFD: Copyright Permission for Translation.

Danette S. reads the item. Jack S. reads the intent. Paul T. reads the requirements. The Item is found on pages 34-36 of the Agenda.

Committee Comments not reflected in ABM Agenda:

- Conference Translation Committee (Maarten K.) – How many official S.L.A.A. copyright translations do we have after 40 years of S.L.A.A.? Only French, German, and Portuguese translations. S.L.A.A. has been in Netherlands for about 20 years and the Basic Text translation is paper in a binder. Translation is not copyrighted, so users don't pay royalties. It doesn't look professional. Since it doesn't look professional, it can't be sent to libraries or health institutions. Translating takes a long time. Personal stories are a big part of the book and translating that will take a lot of time. To grow internationally, we must make it easier for S.L.A.A. to get copyright and an official print as soon as possible with stories out of their own culture.

Time Limit for Comments: 10 minutes. Limit to 1 minute or less. If there is still time after everyone who wishes to speak has spoken, people may speak for a second time. The IFD Submitter or designated representative may speak first.

- IFD Submitter is the Conference Translation Committee. The Representative just spoke during Committee Comments.
- This is an important item. It would be great to make S.L.A.A. literature available in other languages, copyrighted and professional. This is a good service focus and a healthy focus to helps S.L.A.A. become less US-centric and more global. I enjoy having all the international people here. It's important to become more globally-aware. It makes sense to hire translators if this would help get the job done. It's a shame that after 40 years there are only 3 official translations.
- I am in support of this. I think we should drop all personal stories from book except for the 3 stories in the beginning. Some other fellowships have a short version of the Basic Text. Translating helps spread the message.
- I am in support of this. I think we should have a Basic Text version that eliminates all the stories except for the founder's stories. I support doing this in English too – a pocket version of the Basic Text. My other fellowships have that. The Diversity committee has suggested a simplified Basic Text because the language in the Basic Text is very advanced.
- It takes a lot of brain power to translate from one language to another. I'm conversant in another language but it would take me a month and half of constant work to get through a page

or two. The stories in the back are not sacred in my opinion. Other fellowships have beloved stories in the second edition that did not make it to the fourth edition. Sometimes I cannot relate to experiences of people in other cultures. If people can read stories from people in their own culture, then it helps them identify.

- I don't understand why we don't give copyrights. I'd like to do more research on that. Chapters 4-6 of the Basic Text have been translated into Spanish and are available from the office. We are an international fellowship. I was touched hearing some of the core documents read in other languages.
- North County San Diego Intergroup is Pro-translation and Pro-stories from local culture. Our intergroup discussed an abridged (skinny) version of the Basic Text that could be spread throughout for people to get translations. This would be a good expenditure to get the word out around the world. Are core documents translated into all of these other languages? Answer: landing page of S.L.A.A. website has core document translations and we're currently up to 19 languages.
- There is still one more meeting of the Conference Translation Committee if you want to learn about translation. Professional translators are expensive. We had a terrible experience with a guy in the fellowship translating stuff and we had to take his work from him and not cooperate any longer. Having personal stories in native language saves the time required for translation. There is also a Polish copyrighted version of the Basic Text.
- I'd like to see some financial information on the effects of releasing copyright. Would we get a royalty? I'd like to know how much money it will bring in or cost before I could vote on this as a motion. Answer: FWS gives a Translation license goes to any intergroup that shows ability to do so. They sign a license agreement with a royalty included in it. We haven't received a royalty payment in the last 3 years. The difficulty is more in getting translators than in getting royalties for copyrights.
- The UK is in support of this. We have a diverse and international community. There are people who visit UK who are not native English speakers who would love translations of the Basic Text. It's a shame to keep things in English, which only benefits English-speaking countries. We will have to look at the cost, but there are so many places where recovery is not available because it isn't in their language. Who's going to trust a bunch of pages stapled together when you can have a proper book? Other countries deserve this as much as we do. The cost of translation will be made back when people in other countries start buying the book.
- I strongly support moving forward with this as fast as we can. This may be a project for special funds to be raised. It would be enriching for Americans to read stories from other cultures as well as supplemental stories in their book.
- The Webmaster sees a lot of requests for translations. They can get translations of the eight core documents. Sometimes after reading the 40 Questions they ask for a book or a pamphlet, but they can't get them because the translation doesn't exist yet. Perhaps a good start would be to translate the pamphlets.
- The CLC is not talking to CTC about translating books or pamphlets. If there is a way the CLC could help, then talk to them.

Discussion is closed. There will be space on the 2017 Agenda for this item if the submitters wish to convert to a motion.

Announcements and Housekeeping
Session adjourned.

Thursday, August 4 2016, General Assembly, 3:45 – 4:45 PM

Roles:

- Facilitator – Phillip W.
- Assistant Facilitator – Andrew H.
- Backup Facilitator – Trevor G.
- Vote Counters – Glenn S. and David R.
- Timekeeper – Andrew H.

Question of the Day from the Journal

We have 47 out of 51 delegates in the room. We have a quorum.

Item **16n12/16-09** – Motion: Guidelines regarding safety in the program.

Phillip W. reads the motion. Andrew H. reads the intent. Trevor G. reads the requirements. ~~These are~~ The Item is found on pages 37-44 of the agenda.

Committee Comments not reflected in ABM Agenda:

- Board of Trustees (Steve B.) – While the Board of Trustees does not and would never condone an unlawful act against another member, we believe that the Groups and Intergroups are responsible for and capable of making appropriate decisions for individual behaviors and safety. The BOT believes that this mandate could violate Traditions 3, 4, 5, 9, and 10.
- CFC (Earl D.) – CFC is in support of this motion.
- CHRC (Nancy G.) – CHRC discussed this language in the last meeting and we are in support of this motion.

Comments are timed to 2 minutes each.

Pros:

- My intergroup looked at this language last year and this year. The language is improved considerably. It's inclusive. It sets firm boundaries and does not vilify the perpetrator. It understands that sometimes perpetrator's need the program too. When this happened, victim went to higher and higher levels looking for help and there was no recourse from F.W.S. because there was no language and no policy. Having language to address this will be a very helpful tool.
- My intergroup supports this motion. These are guidelines to put suggested text and procedures in place to guide groups and meetings. We've had situations in meetings that have gone outside of the meetings. Although we can't police, it does allow us to put a balance for containment and protection. The language is balanced and fair and it respects both the offender and the person subjected to the boundary violations. We believe this is a good policy to have in place to help meetings and help intergroups with rogue meetings.

- I am for this motion because it is a guideline for safety in meetings. Because it is a guideline, it is a resource to help people set boundaries if needed. In my opinion, setting boundaries is a sign of recovery and sobriety.

Cons:

- I don't understand why F.W.S. needs to be involved. This is a meeting issue and a meeting can handle this on their own. I've been in meetings where people have been unruly and they've been asked to leave and they left. The meetings have control of this. Meetings have a responsibility to establish boundaries. This is a boundary issue that the meeting needs to establish. If they can't establish it then there is a problem in the meeting. I am opposed to F.W.S. dictating how a meeting should be run.
- Most of this language exists as experience strength and hope from CSTCC. The CSTCC has been asked for help on issues like this before. When these incidents happen, the office directs people to see articles from the CSTCC on the web site and reminds them that groups are autonomous and they should seek group conscience in these matters. I don't think F.W.S. should set policies telling groups how they should be run. Groups should be able to make these decisions on their own.
- My intergroup honors spirit and intent, but take issue with word "unlawful". It is not the job of F.W.S./S.L.A.A. to interpret the law or speak of something as unlawful. We should have no obligation for burden of proof for what is unlawful and what is not. Truth lies with each individual and each autonomous meeting. We suggest other words such as ethical, respectful, non-coercive, or non-harmful, in place of "unlawful".

5 Minutes for Questions to submitters.

- Can we amend this to replace "unlawful" with some other word?
 - Answer: A representative was giving authority by submitter to speak for them. Submitter is open to constructive changes.
- The document "Anonymity, the Law, and S.L.A.A." (approved by the BOT in May 2013) has a statement involving illegal activity. Has this statement been consulted at all?
 - Answer: That document explains that anonymity is not the same as confidentiality or privilege. It does not address safety in meetings. The board has not currently discussed safety guidelines.

Question on Voting Options: None.

30 seconds of silence before voting.

- 22 in favor
- 24 opposed
- 4 abstain
- Pam Martin confirms that we have 50 voting members present.

This vote is not unanimous. Those who are in the minority – those in favor – may speak. If no one in the minority speaks, the first vote will stand.

- I found someone harassing and intimidating in another fellowship and I felt no one would take my side. Language like this in the guidelines would help me trust the fellowship. It is a sign of

recovery to have boundaries for unlawful behavior. Guidelines like this can help people speak up for themselves.

- These are not policing reports. These are guidelines. We can't enforce this, but we can give guidelines to meetings where harm may be happening. Giving a group optional guidelines to let them know they can exclude people if necessary gives us some strength.
- We had a meeting with a stalker issue. The meeting decides that this person was not showing a desire to stop acting out in their behavior. The stalker was banned from a meeting but it still took police action to get the stalker to leave and still harassing someone outside of the meeting. The victim needed a restraining order. We don't want to make meetings unsafe like that.
- My intergroup is very much in favor of this. We had a situation where we set a boundary, but the boundary was broken. We used the CSTCC guidelines and "Triggers as a Resource" to set boundaries with this person and they were still broken. It would have been a relief to see these guidelines in a meeting. Currently, we have a single line at the end of our meetings: this is not a place to hook up.
- My intergroup supports this language. The language is permissive – we have the option to use it. It's in the best interest of the offender as well as the victim. We had to deal with a situation and we would have appreciated having this language available to us.
- Women have been assaulted and oppressed for thousands of years. As an S.L.A.A. member and a man and a human being, it is my responsibility to uplift women in meetings and all areas of life.

Question on Voting Process:

- Can Pam verify the number of voters before each vote?
 - Pam confirms that we have 50 of 51 delegates in the room.

30 seconds of silence before voting.

- 26 in favor
- 22 opposed
- 1 abstain

Only 49 out of 50 voters present were recognized in this vote. Roll call count of number of voters present in the room determines a total of 50 voters.

This vote is not unanimous and the majority and minority have reversed. There is now an opportunity for the new minority – those opposed – to speak. If no one in the minority speaks, the second vote will stand.

- Our intergroup dealt with an individual who was not safe. We had language in our home group that says United States law does not protect sponsor-sponsee anonymity. I asked at a business meeting to have that taken out because I thought that language about the law and what we do about people may scare the newcomer.
- Our intergroup had this experience. Each time we took it to the board and each time we had the same answers: take it back to the group conscience. That's the responsibility of the group. It's everyone's responsibility, even the victim's, to take care of themselves. The Statement says "we can trust other members are sober enough not to commit serious violations". We are all addicts and all susceptible to acting out. Who are we to say who is sober and who is not sober?
- This motion feels judgmental and open to interpretation. It feels like it could set FWS up for a lawsuit. It's dangerous to place judgement upon others.

- This statement tells a group how to interpret the 3rd Tradition in a certain set of circumstances. That takes away from the group their ability to make their own decision. And each group is autonomous per Tradition 4. Any group can take this statement back to their group without F.W.S. approval. This can be a slippery-slope if there is a false accusation. Are we telling groups to be fact-finders?
- We do not set meeting formats for meetings. If they want to include language regarding this they can, but I think this could set a Conference precedent that makes it harder for groups to decide what to do.
- My intergroup is opposed to this. We had to involve the police to get a woman to stop behavior. It can take months or years for legal action to establish if something is unlawful. When something happens, a group has to intervene as soon as possible. At our meetings, a statement is read at the start of a meeting that this is not a place to pick up sex partners. When there is a problem, we intervene right away.

30 seconds of silence before voting.

- 19 in favor
- 30 opposed
- 1 abstain
- Pam Martin confirms that we have 51 voting members in the room. One delegate did not vote.

This motion has not passed by group conscience. The motion has not been adopted by 2/3 vote and the decision is not binding upon the Board of Trustees. This item is closed for this ABM and is removed from the agenda.

Announcements and Housekeeping

Session adjourned.

Thursday, August 4 2016, GA/BOT Nominees Tradition 2, 5:00 – 6:00 PM

Roles:

- Facilitator – Anthony P.
- Assistant Facilitator – Amy G.
- Backup Facilitator – Dave G.

Board of Trustees Nominees – Candidates for the Board of Trustees introduce themselves (2 minutes each).

- Bob G. – Candidate for re-election to the Board. Treasurer for the past 2 years. First elected in 2013 and would appreciate your consideration to serve on the board again. I came into the program at a low point in my life – I hit a complete rock-bottom. I owe this Fellowship both my marriage and my life. I am alive because of this program. I look forward to hearing from you and answering your questions this afternoon.
- Jack S. – By doing board service I have learned to express my gratitude. I am extremely grateful for any opportunity to offer service to this fellowship in any matter that I can. I am extremely

grateful that I've had the opportunity to serve the fellowship for the past 2 years. I've been in recovery for 17 years. I met my wife in this fellowship. We've been together for 16 years practicing recovery together. I was asked to serve on the board because of my experience planning Florida Round-Ups and International Recovery Conventions. At the time, the Board had no experience with it and asked me to join so I could help. We had a successful IRC last year and it looks like we may have an even larger IRC this year. I'm happy I could help facilitate that. Serving on the Board Development Committee has been great. I've been able to work with some very talented people. I'm especially impressed with people on the committee who are not Board members. They bring so much to the committee and I learn so much. Thank you for your consideration.

- Earl D. – I got into recovery in 2010 after a family tragedy. It brought me into a different program and I started working on myself. I was able to pass through the stage of denial and started looking at myself. I ended up going through a divorce and that brought me into S.L.A.A. That was my low point. People in the program saved my life. I'm very honored to be part of this community and that has been very rewarding. I look forward to having the opportunity to be part of the Board of Trustees.
- Jason S. – I'm grateful for the opportunity to sit here and get to know all of you. Thank you. When I came into program I was out of control and I've been out of control my whole life. Since coming into this program I've learned some tools that allow me to listen and I have a Higher Power to do that with. I honestly just learned how to look my intergroup in the eye as chair. Now I can use that practice to look all of you in the eye. If elected to the Board, I will listen. There are a lot of people who have been here a long time and they know the rules and the traditions of how this fellowship has worked. This week, I learned some of the more fun traditions at the talent show and the raffle. Those are important to the fellowship.
- Rich K. – I'm grateful to be sitting here with this opportunity with some strong, powerful people. I've been in program 10 ½ years. I hit a very hard bottom, but I know I could sink deeper if I did not practice these principles. I came here to save my life and I stay in here to live my life. Recovery has given me so many opportunities. It didn't save my marriage, but my relationship with my ex-wife is better than when we were married. When I first came in, I thought my relationship with my kids was over. Today I have a wonderful relationship with all my children. I've been able to watch as they've grown. My daughter wanted me to have one of the tickets to watch her graduate from college this year. It's because of these meetings and the people in these meetings that I have had that opportunity. At my first meeting, one person showed up. It's because of her that I've been able to keep coming.
- Melissa K. – I first walked in to a meeting on October 14 2004. I first came in because I was handed the 40 Questions. I've come full circle that I am working on the 40 Questions today. I cried when I read and passed the original 40 Questions. I have been very involved with the Greater Delaware Valley Intergroup. I started as meeting list coordinator and I was thrilled. It started me on the road to service. I have to admit that I am a rescuer. I didn't do any service for the first 3 years, not sponsoring or anything. I needed to focus on me. So, when I started doing

service, I chose to do it very small. As I fulfilled various positions, I realized that what was important was the group and building my intergroup.

Reading of the second Tradition of Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous: For our group purpose, there is but one ultimate authority -- a loving God as this Power may be expressed through our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

Each candidate speaks on their understanding of Tradition 2 and how they practice it at all levels of service (2 minutes each).

- Melissa K. – It’s a great opportunity to do service and a great relief not to govern. It gives me an opportunity to see how the process works. Trying to rewrite the 40 Questions, we put in 3 years of work and it comes to the ABM and gets tabled. That’s the process. It will be ok. It will work out, because I’m not in control.
- Rich K. – The last motion is a great example of not governing. It’s a great example of people being able to speak their mind. The minority spoke, then the new minority got to speak. Tomorrow, we have that opportunity as well when we choose three individuals for the Board of Trustees. I came into the program because my way did not work. I have ideas, some good and some bad. If I’m willing to listen and let go of my desire to control and have things done my way. The way it happens is the way it’s supposed to happen. I can express myself and if people make the decision that I’m wrong, then maybe I’m wrong. That’s how it works for me.
- Jason S. – I understand this Tradition to help keep my ego in check and remind me that God/Higher Power is the answer. I practice this at the Intergroup level currently. When I became chair of our Intergroup, I had all these ideas for how I wanted to change Intergroup. When I took the binder, I instantly knew that God was in control and I laughed at myself. That’s how I apply it today. I don’t try to take charge of Intergroup. As much as I want to set the agenda, I don’t do that. I listen. The governing part is difficult from the Board perspective because in a way, they are tasked to govern. A strong spiritual program will help me keep the idea of governing in check.
- Earl D. – After hitting my bottom, I was able to create Earl 3.0. Earl 2.0 and 1.0 didn’t work. I created a personal mission statement: I want to co-create a safer and cleaner world through servant leadership. Co-create – I can’t do it alone. Servant leadership – I need a great team around me to help make that possible. In the past, it was Earl does it alone and Earl will rescue and that never worked. I see my action on the Board as part of servant leadership. Spiritually, I had no Higher Power. I worked through the first 3 Steps to get a Higher Power and connect with a Higher Power. It was always there, I just didn’t dial in. Now, that is a constant part of my program: meditation, prayer, and just listening.
- Jack S. – I see our Higher Power at work every time we get together in this room. We are doing group conscience and abiding by the second Tradition by listening to our Higher Power. I love to see any level of service I am part of working by the second Tradition. One member is fond of saying “group conscience” so we are constantly reminded of that. I have done conference

service work for most of my time in the fellowship. I have seen the Board at its worst, when they did not honor the second Tradition and I've seen them at their best, when they did honor the second Tradition. The results were obvious. The Board I serve on now tries to have substantial unanimity. We don't have to agree, but we try to make sure everyone knows what we're voting on and agrees what we're voting on. Sometimes we're unanimous but often we're not and have a lone dissenting vote. I believe that's how it should work. We shouldn't always agree.

- Bob G. – When we go around the room and everyone expresses their feelings on an issue, it's important that we listen to others and not get stuck in our own head. We need to stop saying "I'm right and you're wrong always, etc.". I've expressed to someone when they changed my mind on something because I listened to them. We have to listen to each other and work together. Being a trusted servant and not governing can be a fine line sometimes, but we don't govern. We are your servants. The Board is at the bottom of the pyramid. We need to listen to you and do what you ask us to do. We need to listen to each other and listen to other people in the conference and move forward with a sense of unity and substantial unanimity and make sure that our Higher Power is involved.

We have 27 minutes for questions of the candidates. Please pose your thoughts in the form of a question. You may address questions to any or all of the candidates. 1 minute each for answers.

- When confronted with emotion over something binding on the board, but your personal opinion is against it, how do you handle that?
 - Earl D. – I haven't been confronted with that yet. If it happens, I have to take a breath and get connected to my Higher Power and remind myself why I'm here and who I'm serving. Again, it's the bottom of that triangle.
 - Bob G. – That came up this year. At first I was not happy with it, but I couldn't come up with a good reason to not do it. I decided to respect the will of the conference and accept that the conference has more wisdom as a group than I do as an individual. So I respected the conference's wishes and moved it forward.
 - Melissa K. – This just happened. The conference didn't want something I wanted. I had to pray to my Higher Power and accept the process and accept the result.
 - Rich K. – We are not the ultimate authority. If the conference wants something, the Board should do it to the best of its ability. We may have to tweak it if it will harm us legally or fiduciarily- or is it financially?. But, the Board should support what the conference has to say.
 - Jason S. – A friend says "we make our decisions based on the best information we have at the time.". In this past motion, our Intergroup was opposed to it, but they didn't have access to the language in the 4th version of the Agenda and I did. I liked the language in the updated version, so I voted pro. I had more information than my Intergroup did at the time. So I have to make decisions based on the best information I have at the time.

- Jack S. – The Board members are elected for their experience, strength, and hope. The Conference trusts that the Board will do the next right thing. When an item comes before the Board that we don't agree with, we will deliberate and try to find the most positive outcome we can. But, if it's binding, then we will do our due diligence to make sure it gets implemented as close to what has been proposed by the Conference.
- What is role regarding governance of the non-profit, e.g. 990 reports and filings and care of the office and care of the office staff?
 - Jack S. – FWS is a corporation and the Board of Trustees oversees that corporation. We have an HR committee that oversees functions of the office. The Board chair oversees operations of the office. We discuss as a group how to move forward with the staff. For example, HR committee can recommend they get a raise and it goes to the Finance Committee and then goes to the board and we vote on it. We have implemented a lot of policies in the last couple years that help us govern the office. We had an incident where those policies weren't in place and we couldn't do anything about it. So we are very aware of how we handle the office.
 - Jason S. – The office staff are part of the S.L.A.A. family. Until I'm ruined by figures of dollars and cents, I would support whatever they needed.
 - Rich K. – We are compliant on our 990 filings and we get financial statements on an annual basis. We had an audit last year and we're having one done this year because we have a new CPA firm so we will be able to have comparatives. We do the best we can with the resources we have. We changed 2 staff members from part-time to full-time this year. They work hard and we try to do what we're able to for them but we also have a fiduciary responsibility in how we spend your money in terms of what we can do.
 - Melissa K. – I don't know much about finance, so I'll be glad to have other finance people on the Board. But, if the Board needs skills in HR or marketing, I hope they'll be glad to have me on the Board.
 - Bob G. – Regarding compliance: we have auditors who are very knowledgeable. They are new and they do a great job. They are firmly entrenched now in S.L.A.A. As for financial reporting, I can file 990s but I cannot do it for S.L.A.A. because that would be a conflict with me on the Board. I know how they're done and I can review them. We have a list of goals and tasks for the financial aspects. We monitor when taxes are due, when insurance payments are due. We are always looking for new ways to do it. I trust the office staff to keep me informed. We carefully review statements every month. It's an important part of what we do.
 - Earl D. – Although I am not currently on the Board, I serve on a non-profit Board in Houston and I have created non-profit organizations. Staff is critical and the best staff is great. Making sure they are trained and have the tools to do their job is paramount.

- Why is your skill set, talent, experience, personality, a valuable fit for the Board? How will you help the fellowship with your brand of leadership?
 - Earl D. – I’m a technology guy. I’m looking forward to bringing in supportive measures for process and process controls and improve communication and collaboration. I see my skill set from a technology aspect, leveraging that for the Board.
 - Bob G. – My background is finance and management and management consulting. I’ve been writing policies and implementing procedures in various industries. I am an accountant and tax preparer. My skill set compliments the skills of others on the Board. I am a member of the Board who can work with the rest of them and give my expertise and listen to others with other skills on the Board. So far this year it’s been a great mix and no matter who is elected it’s still going to be a great mix. I look forward to participating in that.
 - Melissa K. – My profession is recovery coaching and I do a lot of public speaking on living a life in recovery. But, I have two degrees in organizational dynamics. I have skills in building high-performing teams and working with organizations to make them work better together. That’s a useful skill for that Board.
 - Rich K – I’m a CPA., so I get the financial aspect. I think I am well-organized and I listen well. I think interpersonal skills are important on the Board where it’s ‘principles before personalities’. The mix on the Board during my time has worked really well. We all learn from each other.
 - Jason S. – I don’t know how it will work on this Board. I have only known them for 2 years. I have seen them serious and I’ve seen them have fun. I’ve run a campaign with politicians and I’m good with grammar. So I can cross the T’s and dot the I’s as well.
 - Jack S – I’ve been around for a while and my institutional knowledge brings a lot to the Board. I’ve served as CCC chair twice for a total of 4 years. I’ve chaired local planning committees for ABMs and IRCs and our local Florida Round-Up and I’ve held many other positions. I have been told I am a very good facilitator. I have been told I delegate responsibility well. I’m not a college graduate. I’m a straightforward guy and I tell it like it is from a truck driver’s perspective. I’m not long-winded. This is the longest you will ever hear me speak. I don’t need to have a long conversation. I can state my facts pretty clearly.

- Why do you want to be on the Board of Trustees? In one sentence.
 - Jack S. – Because of how I ended up on the Board, I believe my Higher Power put me here.
 - Jason S. – It highlights my recovery of being able to lead.
 - Rich K. – I need to give back what was freely received from me.
 - Melissa K – I also believe my Higher Power put me here.

- Bob G. – I started work that I haven't quite finished in 3 years and I want to finish and my Higher Power has given me the opportunity to serve. And that's all that's important to me is making sure what we do is serving all of you.
- Earl D. – Service is sobering and I can't think of a better way to stay sober than to be part of this.
- Have you worked the 12 Steps? What was your experience working the 12 Steps? Are you currently working with others? Will you have the time and energy to serve on the Board?
 - Earl D. – It took me a long time to work the first 3 Steps and get connected to a Higher Power. Then I ran into a hurdle at Step 4. That took me 2 ¼ years. I tend to rework the Steps with sponsees and I have to keep going back to Steps 1-3 because I tend to take back control and I have to remember to surrender. I tend to rework Steps 1-3 almost on a daily basis.
 - Bob G. – I've worked the Steps 3 times and I'm now on my 4th. I do the first 3 Steps all the time. I can maintain my sobriety one day at a time with God's help.
 - Melissa K. – The paperwork for the nomination asked that specific question. My Step work is every year. My Intergroup sponsors a Step Retreat every November. It's a weekend where we complete Steps 1-12 and I'm there every year. The first year was with a South Florida group who brought up their book they used to work through the Steps and I was hooked. I find it very important that I do my Steps with that group. I tell my sponsees to come to the Retreat.
 - Rich K. – It depends how you define Work the Steps. I believe in my life I have worked these Steps on a continuous basis. I've made amends – to some people, not to everybody. I've worked on my character defects. I continue to take personal inventory and I continue to ask for help from my Higher Power. I am currently in a Step Study in my other program which includes multiply-addicted people including some who could belong to S.L.A.A. That's their decision but my experience says they could identify here. I haven't written everything out. When I look back, my Step 1 writing from when I came in to today is completely different because I have a greater understanding of myself and a greater honesty about myself.
 - Jason S. – I worked Steps 1-5 with a co-sponsor who fell out afterwards. I applied my A.A. experience to finish Steps 6-9. I have taken an amend through these steps and worked them that way as well. As for the time requirement, I don't know how much time it actually is, but I'll adjust and they'll help me.
 - Jack S. – I've worked the Steps through several different aspects of the S-fellowship. I've worked through several recovery workbooks. The first time I worked the Steps, I did a 4th Step with my sponsor. When I was done he asked "So when are you going to do your 4th Step"? Because I didn't know how to do it. I didn't understand our Basic Text. I had to buy another fellowship's book to help me understand the Steps. It was hard for me to deal with the God thing. I currently sponsor only one person. I have to be at work at 5 AM so it's hard for me to attend evening meetings. I have many grand-sponsees who have my phone number and we talk frequently. I have participated in Step study groups.

- What would you really like to change in the work of the Board of Trustees?
 - Jack S. – I’ve been around a few years and I’ve seen the “Us vs. Them” mentality. I’d love to see that go away and I think we’re working toward that. This Board is far more transparent than a Board many years ago that had no transparency whatsoever. I’d like for us to continue to work toward transparency and work on Us vs. Them because we’re all in this together.
 - Jason S. – Vote me in and ask me in a year.
 - Rich K. – The work we’re doing continuing to make the fellowship better for everybody. Making it safer, more feasible, greater access whether language or meeting barriers I think the Board needs to work towards that. I’ve seen improvement on that in the time I’ve been on.
 - Melissa K. – Literature, literature, literature. 60% of the income comes from literature. It should be multi-lingual and electronic and it should be updated and renewed on a regular basis. There should be a huge pipeline of new development.
 - Bob G. – We’re getting better about this, but I don’t want there to be any more disconnect at all. I want everyone to feel free to reach out to the Board and tell us what you need and what you want. Don’t be afraid to. In the 3 years I’ve been on the Board I have preached transparency. That’s what I believe. I want to be 100% transparent.
 - Earl D. – I believe in accountability. Being on the finance committee and seeing the numbers, I am concerned about the trend line. I’d like to improve that over time.

Announcements and Housekeeping
Session adjourned.

Friday, August 5 2016, BOT Elections, 8:00 – 9:30 AM

Opening – Moment of Silence followed by Serenity Prayer and reading of the Twelve Steps in Swedish, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts.

Roles:

- Facilitator – Andrew H.
- Assistant Facilitator – Anthony P.
- Backup Facilitator – Jason S.
- Timekeeper – Dave G.
- Vote Counters – Susanne D. and Ashly M.

Chair of the Board Development Committee (BDC) Rick B., opened the election process with the following statement: The CSM says on page 14 that nominations can be received at the ABC up to the day prior to the scheduled election. That is untenable. That means that people have to fill out their applications while in general assembly and all the interviews have to be taken and nobody gets the paperwork until the day of the election. This will need to be changed in the CSM.

We have 51 out of 51 delegates in the room. We have a quorum.

Questions:

- How many empty seats will there be after this election?
 - 3 empty seats available after the election, previously unfilled partial terms.
 - Board will be able to appoint someone to fill those positions.
- How long are the remaining terms of the other 3 Board members?
 - Rick B. has one year left in his term. Steve B. and Susan G. have two years remaining.

Voting Begins. Vote counters have 51 ballots returned.

Jack S. asks for response to ABM Survey. Need feedback on the ABM.

ARS Presentation, Anthony P.

Review of ARS flowchart

Brief review of some of the ARS Questions

Purpose of the ARS

New part of the process – Appeals to ARS decisions go to the CCC.

Board Election Results. Rick B. thanks people who help with BOT elections.

- Bob G. – Elected to 3-year term
- Rich K. – Elected to 3-year term
- Jack S. – Elected to 3-year term

Questions about the ARS process:

- What did we do about problems with 3rd Revision of the Agenda? What is the ARS and CCC doing to resolve problems?
 - Can't answer to that. Must get feedback from the ARS.
- When a motion is tabled, does a motion come back exactly the same? Or can it come back as a new item?
 - Literature can have a revision. It can come back as a motion.
- Does someone have to be on the CCC to be a member of the ARS?
 - No, they do not.

Item **16n13/16-13** – IFD: Should the ABM/C be a Closed Meeting?

Andrew H. reads the item. Jason S. reads the intent. Anthony P. reads the requirements.

Committee Comments:

- Conference Public Information Committee – General Assembly and Conference Committee Meetings (ABM) is not the appropriate place for outreach or teaching about the fellowship.

Submitter: There have been observers in this room, seeing who we are and part of our discussions. Previous discussions at conferences regarding ABM roster on colored sheet to prevent copying, protects anonymity. AA does not allow anyone to observe their conference.

Time Limit for Comments: 15 minutes. Limit to 1 minute or less.

- ABC/M entails other activities besides what happens general assembly. Went to Newton to the founders meeting Tuesday night. Had a meeting last night for members to talk about their recovery. It is not just the business of the fellowship that occurs at the ABC/M, it is other stuff too. The auction, for example, some of those things we should encourage people who are not necessarily delegate to participate. Making it a closed meeting from that aspect is a mistake, I think what happens in General Assembly should certainly be closed.
- In favor of having ABM and breakout sessions closed. Not in favor of having conference closed, e.g. spouses could come to dinners, or the extracurricular activities. I would like them to be welcomed because this is about relationships and us growing with them and I would like the ABM minutes unlocked, so that if anyone wants to look at them, they can. If anyone is interested enough to go to the website, and finding the minutes, that is fine, I think it could give them experience strength and hope and see that we are not whatever it is they are afraid we are. Unlock the minutes, and keep them unlocked. And close the general assemblies.
- I don't have a strong opinion either way, but I do have a question of the effectiveness for closing the meeting for the purposes stated. Anyone at this hotel could take our pictures, and they would have a record of who was at this meeting or they could just observe who is coming and going, if they really wanted to know. So, I just question the effectiveness of closing the meeting if the purpose is strictly to protect anonymity. In favor of protecting anonymity.
- Does submission cover who sees us coming and going at the hotel? What is the difference between the ABC and ABM? ABC is the social functions and ABM is the business function. Like the idea of ABM is being closed, but for bringing partners to the social events.
- In order to enact this, we need some checkbox on the registration page that registrant is a member. This would be a webpage/physical registration with telephone number, names, addresses, everything and that could freak people out. Something to think about.
- For international delegates, it is normal to combine ABM with short holiday. Wanted to attend speaker meeting with partner. Agree that the conference should be open, but not the business meeting.
- Very comfortable in skin, once there was a news crew outside a therapist office because the news found out a therapist was treating sex offenders, didn't bother me. Published meeting list with 75 meetings. People volunteer to be contact person on meetings list. Therapist in New Jersey posted meeting list in her office and on her website. One member from a business transaction, someone Googled his phone number and it came back to the list and the therapist, and messed up his business deal, and tried to sue the therapist. But member volunteered to put his name on the list until it went sour. Personally, we have to protect our anonymity, but we also have to meet business corporation requirements.

- This feels a little shameful, important to live out loud. I respect other people who choose anonymity, but I choose to be upfront. Keeping this room sacred is great, but we can't live in fear outside of this room.
- I have had this discussion with intergroup and meeting. We have discuss closed at the intergroup level and closed at the group level. Personally, I have a job where if they knew I was in this program there would be some answering to do, so I have some valid reasons for being anonymous and at the same time I believe God is in charge of it so at the meeting level and intergroup level I have always proposed keeping the meetings open to be more inclusive. No easy answer, but if I pray and let God be in charge of it, I will be okay.
- Business meeting should be closed. Not comfortable with having my name listed in business meeting minutes online. Everything is traceable online. Names should be coded in some way with pseudonym or a number.
- In spirit of releasing shame, and releasing secrecy and stigma around something that is actually an issue of denial, I vote for openness for the social activities, and the conference and the spirit of inviting people in to release secrecy, shame and denial. And I think the internet can be a dangerous place and that people can take ownership of whatever information they want on and can create their own pseudonym.

Discussion is closed. There will be space on the 2017 Agenda for this item if the submitters wish to convert to a motion.

Thank the F.W.S. Staff: Pamela, Hector, Pam, Beth

Announcements and Housekeeping
Session adjourned.

Friday, August 5 2016, General Assembly, 2:15 – 3:30 PM

Opening

Roles:

- Facilitator – Phillip W. (CCC Chair)
- Assistant Facilitator – Bob G. (Board Chair)
- Backup Facilitator – Earl D. (CFC Chair - Outgoing)
-

We now have 8 members on the Board of Trustees, as Earl D. and Jason S. were appointed to the Board. Rich K. is the new Board Finance Chair. Board Development chair is Jack S., Programs and Membership chair is Susan G., Outreach chair is Rick B.

Conference Committee Liaisons

- CAC – Jack S.
- CBC – Rick B.
- CCC – Bob G.

- CDC – Jason S.
- CFC – Rich K.
- CICC – Earl D.
- CJC – Susan G.
- CLC – Steve B.
- CHRC – Jack S.
- CMRC – Rich K.
- CHIC – Steve B.
- CPIC – Rick B.
- CSC – Steve B.
- CSPC – Susan G.
- CSTCC – Jason S.
- CTC – Earl D.

Committee Reports

- CAC – Meets 4th Sunday at 1:00 PM Central time, 2 PM Eastern time, 11: AM Pacific time.
- CBC – This was a ~~dark~~ inactive committee. Identifies inconsistencies in past versions of the By-Laws. Will update to make sure they are consistent and correct. Meeting time has not been decided yet.
- CCC – Phillip W. is the chair, Jay G. is the vice-chair. Meets on the 1st Sunday of each month. Need a new ARS chair.
- CDC – Dave G. is vice-chair and interim chair. Will move meeting time. Project to record shares at ABM or other retreats and gatherings in fellowship and put them on web as MP3s. Allow people in different places and languages to get connected. Asked for budget of \$2750. Meets 1st Sunday of every month. For September, will meet on the 2nd Sunday because the 1st Sunday is Labor Day weekend.
- CFC – Earl D. is outgoing chair. Meets the first Sunday of every month at 10 AM Central time. Part of job is to get forms for all committees. Still missing forms from some committees. Primary focus is on helping board with designated giving and fundraising activities.
- CHRC – Amalia E. is vice-chair of CHRC. A lot of participation in the committee and a lot of interest in Healthy Relationships draft. Searching for an editor for this document and may be able to hire one if they get their budget request. The goal is to rewrite and edit and present as a motion at the 2017 ABM with a goal to get it on the first version of the Agenda in January. Meets the 1st Sunday of each month at 11 AM Pacific Time.
- CICC – Juanita J. is vice-chair. Intergroup Forum is an ongoing project. Looking for ways to increase information flow between Intergroups. We are also trying to get the committees involved in the forum to help make information flow between Intergroups and committees, i.e. committees can ask questions directly to Intergroups and Intergroups can ask questions directly to committees. Forum allows users to tailor how they get emails: digest, all emails, or summary every day. Looking into collaboration between CPIC and Service committee on how CICC can

help improve communication between Intergroups and FWS. Looking into helping webmaster put together meetings for a meeting list. In the process of doing this, creating a Call Squad to reach out to Intergroups on a regular basis. Looking for volunteers. You don't have to be a member of the committee to be on the Call Squad. If you're interested, contact the CICC. Meetings are on 3rd Sunday at 6:30 Eastern time, 3:30 Pacific time.

- CJC – Lisa C. chair. Meets on 1st Saturday at 10:00 AM Pacific time, 1:00 PM Eastern time. CJC has its own page on the website. There are 6 dedicated members on each conference call and 2 new prospects. Put in budget for 2018 Journal calendar for all delegates and for new subscribers. Currently discussing projects for new booklets – Healthy Relationships focus articles, Fantasy focus articles, and Step 2 focus articles. Journal archives summary helps Intergroups or committees search for articles on certain subjects. The archive can be searched for the past 10 years of Journal articles.
- CLC – Tim P., chair. Meetings are 4th Saturday at noon Eastern. CLC will elect a vice-chair at August 27 meeting. Trying to streamline the process, create liaisons to all other committees wanting to produce literature, e.g. Translations Committee, Healthy Relationships Committee. Submitting budget request to hire a professional editor for upcoming big project, e.g. 12x12 book. Going to begin the process of creating a F.W.S. app.
- CMRC – Tim C., chair. Met every day during the ABM with some new people who came to CMRC meetings at ABM. Thinking about approaching other committees to try to roll in to another committee, e.g. Diversity. Will speak to Diversity committee to discuss CMRC issues: creating sponsor-sponsee speaker meetings, sending flyers to Intergroups to suggest creating positions such as greeters at meetings. Drafted mission statement but haven't signed off on it yet. Meeting time to be announced as CMRC has not decided on a meeting time yet.
- CHIC – Matthew N., chair. Started ABM with 3 active members and got 6 more members on the committee at ABM. Starting program to go into prisons and institutions with literature to talk about S.L.A.A. We have some new energy in the committee. Plain language text project is underway. Also looking for a treasurer. Monthly conference calls are the 1st Thursday of every month at 6 PM Pacific time, 9 PM Eastern time.
- CPIC – David B., chair. Continuing project: plan to revisit Suggestions for Public Outreach document every two years. Next revision will begin at 2017 ABM. We have an Outreach Kit, but still need to do work to pull together the outreach materials and make them available to groups and intergroups. Started talking about putting together information, tools, materials for intergroups/lone groups to build websites. We have a few webmasters interested in being involved in this, including Beth S the FWS webmaster. Putting in a budget request to support SASH (Society for Advancement of Sexual Health) conference. CPIC will try to coordinate with CHIC, Board, and FWS. Meetings are 3rd Sunday of every month at 3:00 PM Eastern time, noon Pacific time.
- CSC – Meet on 3rd Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM Eastern time. Passed out a form called "Why Not Get Involved?", but the email address on the form is incorrect. They will create a new email address. Flyer includes phone number and access code for meetings. Voted during committee sessions at ABM to include flyer on committee corner on FWS website. This is to

help people find the Service Committee more easily. Recommend other committees consider doing this too. Still working on the free Service pamphlet with cartoons. Rob S will be at IRC on Saturday with new version. Friends of the CSC are copying and distributing draft literature. Put in budget of \$300 for service pamphlet with cartoons and \$200 for Service Ladder pamphlet. Completing date for Service Pamphlet is 2017, hopefully at the 2017 ABM as a motion.

- CSPC – Good turnout at the meetings with several new members and prospects. Grateful for new direction to get the sponsorship committee back to rolling along. Working on some new literature. New “Get Involved” flyer is available on table at ABM or online. New chair is Cathy. Meetings are on 1st Monday at 6 PM Pacific time, 9 PM Eastern time. Will not meet on the first Monday in September as that is Labor Day.
- CSTCC – Dave G., chair. A lot of good discussion at ABM with a couple of new members. Meetings are on 4th Sunday at 1 PM Pacific time, 4 PM Eastern time. Still working on concepts booklet and answering questions from the fellowship. Submitted budget request of \$200 for international phone calls.
- CTC – David F., vice-chair. Maarten K. is the chair. CTC aids other groups when they have translation projects. More people offered suggestions and encouragement at this ABM. Meets on last Sunday every month at 1 PM US Eastern time, 7 PM central European time. Except there will not be a meeting at the end of August. Suggestion to communicate with different language S.L.A.A. groups who may be thinking of translation but don’t know how to proceed. Don’t know what other countries are doing, France, Germany, Spanish-speaking countries.

Chairs Committee Meeting is immediately following the General Assembly in the Queen Mary room.

Voice vote to confirm Conference Committees for 2016-2017 year:

- CAC – Conference Anorexia Committee
- CBC – Conference Bylaws Committee
- CCC – Conference Charter Committee
- CDC – Conference Diversity Committee
- CFC – Conference Finance Committee
- CHIC – Conference Hospitals and Institutions Committee
- CHRC – Conference Healthy Relationships Committee
- CICC – Conference Intergroup Communications Committee
- CJC – Conference Journal Committee
- CLC – Conference Literature Committee
- CMRC – Conference Membership and Retention Committee
- CPIC – Conference Public Information Committee
- CSPC – Conference Sponsorship Committee
- CSC – Conference Service Committee
- CSTCC – Conference Steps, Traditions, and Concepts Committee
- CTC – Conference Translations Committee

Passes by voice vote.

Announcement of the 2017 ABM in Boston. It will be at a different hotel, but the exact location and dates have not been determined yet.

Announcements:

Motion to close. Second. Close with Serenity Prayer ("We" version).