

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



2017 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes

July 25-28, 2017

**Sheraton Framingham
Framingham, Massachusetts**

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Conference Theme: The 3rd Tradition - “The only requirement for S.L.A.A. membership is a desire to stop living out a pattern of sex and love addiction. Any two or more persons gathered together for mutual aid in recovering from sex and love addiction may call themselves an S.L.A.A. group, provided that as a group they have no other affiliation.”

Abbreviations you need to know (see Appendix A of the **CSM 2017**):

ABC/M Annual Business Conference/Meeting
ARS Agenda Review Subcommittee
Basic Text.....Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous ©1986
BFC..... Board Finance Committee
BFSC.....Board Fellowship Self-Supporting Committee
BHRPC..... Board Human Resources/Personnel Committee
BDC Board Development Committee
BPMC.....Board Programs and Membership Committee
BOC.....Board Outreach Committee
BOT Board of Trustees
CSM Conference Service Manual
HP Higher Power
IFD Item for Discussion
IRC International Recovery Convention

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 Hospitals and Institutions Committee
CHRC..... Conference Healthy Relationships Committee
CICC Conference Intergroup Communication Committee
CJC Conference Journal Committee
CLC.....Conference Literature Committee
CMRC..... Conference Member Retention Committee
CPIC Conference Public Information Committee
CSC.....Conference Service Committee
CSPC..... Conference Sponsorship Committee
CSTCC Conference Steps, Traditions and Concepts Committee
CTIOC..... Conference Translation/International Outreach Committee (formerly CTC)

Tuesday July 25, 2017

After a Conference Chairs Meeting, New Delegate Orientation and lunch, the General Assembly began.

General Assembly: Tuesday July 25, 2017 – 1:05 pm

- Facilitator – Phillip W. – CCC Chair
- Assistant Facilitator – Bob G. – BOT Chair
- Backup Facilitator – Christiane S. – CFC Chair
- Record Keeper for this ABM – Rita H.
- Timekeeper – Sarah E.

There was no count for voting members present or quorum for this General Assembly.

The session opened with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer and reading of the:

- 12 Steps read by Mathilde H. in French
- 12 Traditions – Paul T.
- 12 Concepts – April G.

Introductions as follows:

- CCC Chair - Phillip P. introduced the CCC members present: Stephen F., Gabriel G., Rita H., and Anthony P. who has not made it here yet. The CCC facilitates the ABM.
- BOT Chair – Bob G. introduced the board members present in order of seniority: Steve B., Rick B., Susan G., Rich K., Jason S., Earl D., Nancy G., and brand new on the board is Ashly B.
- CCC Chair also introduced the Executive Director for F.W.S. – Pam Martin and the F.W.S. Webmaster – Beth S. and the Local Planning Committee Chair – Seth S.
- Introduction of all individuals present (57)
- Seven (7) Countries are represented: USA, UK, Germany, Sweden, Canada, Poland and the Netherlands; as well as a Phone Group and Online Group.

The CCC Chair guided participants to the [2017 ABM Binder](#) (hard copy and third year for the digital copy) , the schedule for the General Assemblies and the Conference Committee sessions as well as the rules and business meeting process.

The BOT Chair reviewed the content of the [Supplemental Packet](#).

The CCC Chair explained that the Executive Director was responsible for the quorum and count of total voting members present at any given time. If you leave the room you must let her know as well as if you return to the room. The final ABM Agenda will be distributed tomorrow morning.

The F.W.S. Executive Director gave housekeeping details regarding meals, bathrooms, the Store hours, auction items, flyers on the back table, hospitality suite, and the location of Conference Committee meetings. An announcement for the Founders Meeting tonight - bus leaving at 7:05pm.

The BDC Chair, Rick B., explained that one of its roles is to facilitate board elections at the ABM and there are 3 open positions with 2 candidates running and 2 appointees to the board that need to be confirmed. This process will be repeated a number of times over the next few days. Anyone interested in nominating or self-nominating please see him. The only persons who may nominate are Delegates and those voting members of the Conference; observers cannot.

The session ended with a 15 minute break.

Getting to Know the BOT/F.W.S.: Tuesday July 25, 2017 - 2:18 pm

- Facilitator - Gabriel G.
- Assistant Facilitator - Seth S.
- Backup Facilitator - Mary Jane B.

Each BOT member introduced him/herself and explained his/her duties as well as the F.W.S. Office Staff:

Rick B. – BDC Chair explained there are two subcommittees, Board Documents and Board Nominations and Elections. On the BOT almost 6 years; liaises with CPIC and CBC. My term comes to an end at the end of this ABM. Came into the program Dec 20, 2008 and sober ever since; program saved my life. Raised in NJ and currently live in FL since 2002: “You don’t have to shovel sunshine.”

Jason S. – BOC Chair and appointed to the BOT at the end of ABM 2016; liaison to CDC and the CSTCSS. My term ends this ABM and running for the 3-year open position. Came into program Aug 18, 2012 and sober since then. Prior to the board I was on the CDC, friend of the Journal, and just busy.

Susan G. – BPMC Chair and Chair of the ABM Planning Committee and the IRC Planning Committee as well as Co-Chair of the Copyright Translations Subcommittee. I am entering my 6th and last year on the board and my term finishes at the next ABM. I liaise to the CJC and the CAC. I am sober 11 years; my sobriety date is April 18, 2006 and I qualify to serve on the board. Where do I come from? Hopeless, low bottom sex and love addict. I didn’t want to live anymore and happy to say I don’t live that anymore.

Steve B. – My sobriety date is July 3, 2007. I am from Sunrise FL suburb of Fort Lauderdale. I have served as Treasurer, board chair and currently serving as the Secretary of the board and the BHRPC Chair which oversees the office and employees; board liaison to CHIC and the CLC. I am on my 2nd elected 3-yr term and I will be serving my 7th and final year on the board this coming year. I started my service 9 years ago when I read this draft called the *Anorexia 123* and they had a call in; only one to show up on the call. I spent most of my life doing things that made my life unmanageable; and used to say if you had my wife/life you would do it too. I joined this program and the two things I found I wanted most were my life and wife...celebrating 33 years of marriage this year.

Bob G. – I am the BOT Chair this year. I reached rock bottom 10 years ago and in deep trouble. In 2010 I volunteered at the ABM in San Antonio and then served on the BFOC (Board Finance and Operations Committee) that later became the BFC. This is my 4th year. I was BFC Chair. I am also the Office Supervisor. My background is in management accounting and reaching end of working career-scary and pleasing. Start collecting pension July 1st. Program has given me my life. I am liaison to the CCC and Chairs Committee.

Rich K. – I am BFC Chair and Treasurer for the Fellowship. I have been on the board 1 year 8 months. I was appointed and elected last year; completing first year. I am liaison to CFC and CMRC. I have been in the program since Feb 2006 when I hit a very hard bottom and have been sober since that time. I am a CPA and grateful to bring those skills to the board. This program too has saved my life. I signed a contract to purchase a practice which is just a miracle. When I came in I never thought I would be able to prepare another tax return again. I have served on the BFC for 5 years now; first as a non-board member. Also served on BOC and BDC.

Earl D. – Live in Cypress, suburb of Houston. My sobriety date is March 29, 2013 and I qualify to serve on the BOT. I am BFSC Chair and really a fun, interesting and new committee; looking for non-board members to serve on it. One of the great things about this board is that they placed a lot of trust in new people on the board; empowering and frightening at the same time. Served on BOC and BFC. Appointed to board for one year to a term that finishes this year and now running for the 3-year open position. I liaise to CHRC, CICC and

CTC. I got into recovery in early 2010 due to a life-threatening event with my son and my qualifier; and reluctantly dropped into these rooms. I was a Houston delegate for 2 years and CFC chair for 1 year.

Nancy G. – I was appointed to BOT March 2017. I am liaison to CSC and CSPC. I sit on the BFC and BPMC. I am serving a 2-year term that ends 2018. I participated in San Diego S.L.A.A. for 10 years and my sobriety date is Nov 2008. I came into program with a history of serial monogamy and a strong pattern that I was emotionally available but my partners were not. It was very humbling to learn that that was my avoidant strategy and that I was not emotionally available either. My work began to get to know me as described in our Basic Text. This is my 5th ABM. My first 4 years I was involved with the CHRC and chair for 2 years. Locally involved with Intergroup that started 5 years ago.

Ashly B. – On the board for 2 months. Been to 2 ABMs as a Houston delegate. Served on BMPC. Appointed to BOT for a 3-year term. Sober Nov 2012 and hit bottom in Sept 2012. Acting out in ways I never wanted to be. Attended Texas Roundup and doing service work has saved my life. I have completed the Steps and have a sponsor and sponsees. I just got married 6 months ago by the grace of God. I can love myself as I am and love my husband for who he is. Such a gift to be here today and have healthy relationships.

Pam Martin – Executive Director of the F.W.S. Office. I live in San Antonio originally from Florida. I have a 13-yr old son. I was hired as Office Manager in Sept 2013 and Susan was the BOT Chair/Office Supervisor and she has taught me everything I needed to know. I was thrust into my first ABM in Houston TX in 2014; so 2 years in Houston and 2 years in Boston. Steve was supervisor for 2 years and now Bob for the last year. I have had the best 3 bosses you could ever imagine and they are so supportive. We look forward to their visits. We really want to do a good job for them.

Beth S. – I am from Johnstown PA. I was writing my report for tomorrow morning and I realized this year is 10 years. I came into this program in 2006 and my first view of the program was the website. I have been playing with computers since the 90s and I taught myself how to build websites which are part of my addictive behavior. I was playing a video game and wanted to build a website for the video game so I obsessed on how to build websites until I learned it. So now I get to use what I know for this program. My first view of S.L.A.A. was the website. This is my 4th ABM. When I first saw the website I thought the building must look like the UN with the flag and a big corporate building. I wanted to help with the website but I thought they couldn't possibly want my help. I emailed them and they said yes please help us. I have been sober since 2006. I have been married 20 years, almost didn't make it to eight. I love this program and I love coming to the ABM.

Questions/Answers to the BOT – CCC has scripted these questions for the board so the Conference can get to know the board, positions, roles, terms and election process.

1. What is the BOT and what is its purpose and duties?

BOT Chair responded that the BOT is the Board of Trustees. We run the Office basically. We do the finance, all the business of the Fellowship, and we work with the Committees to make it better. We work on the inverted triangle system, we are at the bottom. You guys are next and above you are the Groups, Intergroups and members. We serve you the best we can and we have a fiduciary responsibility. What that means is that we are responsible. We can be sued if something untoward happens to finances. We have developed a lot of procedures and protocols so we can operate effectively. Keep an eye on everything going on without micro-managing. We sign contracts, get insurance, supply literature and operate on a prudent basis.

2. What are the Trustee positions and the roles of such positions and committees?

BOT Chair indicated that each board member has equal say when we go around the room; his vote same as newest member on the board. There is a structure to the board.

There are six (6) Board Committees with Chairs:

- Board Finance Committee – Monitors financial condition/statements of the company.
- Board Human Resources/Personnel Committee – Keeps up all the policies and procedures plus monitors the attendance of the Office.
- Board Programs and Membership Committee – Works and puts together this ABM although Executive Director does the lion share of this work.
- Board Outreach Committee – Makes sure that message reaches addict that still suffers
- Board Development Committee – Monitors how we work and comes up with election process.
- Board Fellowship Self-Supporting Committee – Newest committee and developed because last year the Conference passed a motion about a designated giving program.

BOT meets the 2nd Sat of every month; odd numbered months meet for 3 hrs and even numbered months meet for 2 hrs. In addition, each board member liaises with a Conference Committee. We devote 20-30 hrs/month at a minimum for board service. Occasionally travel to F.W.S. Office for evaluations and implement procedures.

3. Why do board-level service?

- Bob G. - Path that seemed to come to me;
- Steve B. - Because that lady in the dark red shirt told me I could and because it saved my life; I am an attorney and it helps to have a professional background because there are professional responsibilities.
- Susan G. - Because this guy asked me to, it really is about one person asking another can you do it? Then serving on a board committee as a non-board member. Service is sobering.
- Jason S. - Because I was asked by an observer at the ABM and I felt led by HP; I work as a machinist but was trained as a diplomat. I did run a political campaign and good at administrative things; and, out of gratitude. It is a lot of work but an incredible amount of fun.
- Rick B. - A.A. saved my life but S.L.A.A. gave me a life worth living. The least I could do was service and in the course of being a Delegate I was asked to serve on the board and I said no but then yes because I felt it was HP's will.
- Ashley B. - It seemed like my next step in service work. Within a few weeks in the program, I did registration at the Texas Roundup and I was giving back in an unselfish way. It gave me a sense of purpose in a healthy way. I love planning. I am a pre-K teacher in a private school and what I bring is a ton of patience and collaborating.
- Nancy G. - Gratitude and clarity about purposely giving back and insures my continued sobriety. With my sponsor asked the questions; why and why not do board service? So thoughtful consideration. Past board members from San Diego and Tampa encouraged me too. I have an ability to gather collective wisdom.
- Earl D. - For me it is sobriety through service. Good to have a militant sponsor so I learned service is part of my program. Helped form 4-5 meetings in Houston; have been treasurer, Intergroup Rep, Delegate and HP directing next steps in service past my comfortability. My expertise is high-end information technology and super computers. I bring a strong technology focus. I am a strategist and concept architect for governments and industry.
- Rich K. - Some people are asked but I was told to serve on the board by my sponsor. For me the answer is yes. I wanted to act out in my addictions 168 hrs/week; 500+ hrs/month; if I am unwilling to give 25-30 or 40 hrs/month back then I am going to go back out there again and I know that. That is why I do board service.

4. What are the terms a board member can serve? Specifically the back-filling and rotation of terms.

BOT Chair indicated that basically the terms are 3-year terms. The next year is a 3-yr term and the next year. That is how it is supposed to work. As many of you know last year we had 6 board members. A goal of mine

was to have a full board this year because it works better that way. Of course it takes forever to go through everything when we have round robin discussions. A full board is having 9 people. We lost a board member last year so we had 4 positions. We appoint people in between ABMs which we are allowed to do in the By-Laws. They are appointed to the shortest term available. Earl and Jason were appointed to the one-year terms after the ABM last year. When it came time to appoint Nancy there was a 2-year term available so she was appointed for two years; and when Ashly came there was only a 3-year term available so she was appointed for 3 years. When we appoint people to the board they come to this ABM after their appointment and they have to be either confirmed or if appointed to a one-year position they stand for re-election or leave.

5. How often does the board meet monthly and annually?

Already answered this question partially but we have been here since Saturday.

6. How often do board committees/subcommittees meet?

Typically subcommittees meet once a month as well. Sometimes more often or by email discussions and votes.

7. How do the board members interact with the Office? Via Conference Call?

The way the BOT Chair and Office Supervisor communicate depends on the personality of the board Chair. We had one Chair that did a one-hour Skype call with the Office. In very bad times we had a board Chair who virtually lived in San Antonio because she was doing the work of the board and the office. There was one individual who would save up some time and speak with the General Manager now the Executive Director. For me it is on a needs basis. It all depends on the individual's personality and management styles.

8. How many seats are on the board? How many are currently filled and how many are available?

BOT Chair will start then BDC Chair will continue. Board limited to 9 people. Friday morning the Conference will vote and there will be two standing for re-election and one open position. Every year 3 trustees rotating out of service and every year 3 seats to be filled.

9. How do BOT nominations work, and how do we find the candidate questionnaire?

BDC Chair indicated the BOT Questionnaire is in the ABM Binder. Do not fill it out manually. Ask me or Rich K. or Pam Martin for the electronic version and send it back to whomever you got it from so we can print it out. Floor nominations will open tomorrow and anyone interested can nominate themselves or nominate someone else. Please go to person before nominating them to be sure they want to run for board service. Two questions are asked when person nominated: 1 - Are you willing to be of service on the board? 2- Do you have the 3-year sobriety requirement? If answers are yes they fill out the paperwork and are given an oral interview that evening. All paperwork collated and brought to Conference members to review it and on Friday we do the elections.

Questions/Comments from the Floor:

- Would like Office to introduce the other staff in the Office:
BOT Chair indicated there are 2 other wonderful people who work there. If you ordered from the Office it is packed by Hector and it has probably arrived at your house about 14 seconds after you ordered it. He is known as the flash. A remarkable young woman, Christina, is usually the person who answers the phone. Christina started as a warehouse worker before coming to us and has grown into such a talent working with our people when they call in and dealing with difficult situations. They are loyal to you and us. They are amazing.
- Talk about Step work process and do you have a sponsor and do you sponsor:
 - Ashly B. - I have worked the 12 Steps with my sponsor and work them daily based on what is going on in my life. I have had a sponsor for 5 years. I sponsor women. I go to meetings and have 3 other programs.

- Nancy G. - I have worked the 12 Steps in several programs but certainly in S.L.A.A. with my sponsor. There are 3 meetings that work the Steps weekly.
- Earl D. - I work the Steps and the first time was in therapy. Worked with a sponsor and do annually but every other year work with a new sponsor to get a new approach. I have a sponsee.
- Rich K. - I have a co-sponsor in this Fellowship and sponsor in another fellowship and have sponsees in both. I live and work the Steps in my life daily.
- Bob G. - My first sponsor was a retired Marine drill instructor and he ran his sponsees exactly like that. I was told I was going to be working the Steps or he would fire me. I am maybe not as hard with my sponsees. I worked through Steps twice now and have a co-sponsor. I founded a Step Study group.
- Steve B. - I worked the Steps in this program with a sponsor and worked the Steps in two other programs; one with a sponsor and one in a Step study. I am working the Steps with a co-sponsor around anorexia and procrastination. I am at a Dunkin Donuts 8pm every Sunday night for 4 yrs and work the Steps 1-12. I am at my home group every Wed night.
- Susan G. - I believe I am working the Steps every day. If I don't admit I am a sex and love addict everyday then I am lost. In my quiet time I do my Step 11 daily. I work Step 12 every day and I meet with a sponsee online. The other Steps I work as they come up. Carrying the message rather than the mess.
- Jason S. - First time I worked the Steps 1-6 with a co-sponsor and he fell out after he heard my 4th Step. I was desperate to apply principles to finish my Steps. Last year I worked the *Companion to Chapter 4* with a sponsor. I can officially say I have completed my Steps in this program. I have sponsored men but currently don't have any.
- Rick B. - I worked the Steps in other fellowships. I worked the Steps with the "brutal" path with 6 other recovery brothers and worked the *Companion to Chapter 4* with 6 other guys and it took us 17 or 26 weeks. Using another 12 Step guide now. My sponsor says when you finish the 12th Step you go back to the 1st one and start all over again. I have 3 ½ sponsees. I have a sponsor who happened to be a trustee and sponsor's sponsor happened to be a trustee and my sponsor's sponsor's sponsor happened to be a trustee. So I happen to have the opportunity to be in a room with 4 generations of sponsorship.

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

F.W.S. BOT Financial Report: Tuesday July 25, 2017 - 3:45 pm

- Facilitator – Christiane S.
- Assistant Facilitator – Anne K.
- Backup Facilitator – Sarah C.

Rich K., BFC Chair and Treasurer, gave the BOT Financial Report with a Power Point presentation that was also a handout provided to all participants.

- The BFC goes over the quarterly statements, approves and sends to the BOT for review and approval. Once approved, the financial reports are published in the **F.W.S. Newsletter**. The Fiscal Year begins on October 1st.
- Income comes from two sources: 30% from contributions/donations and 70% from literature. This has changed from previous years and is a concern.
- The Balance Sheet, also known as the Statement of Position, is a snapshot of our financial condition at any one given moment. The Profit and Loss statement, also known as the Statement of Activity, is the detail of money that comes in and money that goes out.
- We pay for things as we incur them. We have to pay for rent, upkeep of copy machine and employee expenses. The total liability and equity runs around \$300,000 - \$350,000. A comparison of the last 4 years was presented.

Questions from the Floor:

- **Q**-How has ebook impacted sales?
A-We thought it would but it has not affected sales of the hard copy of the Basic Text.
- **Q**-Can you explain the subsidies?
A-The BOT authorized a 25% discount for international groups outside the United States and Canada off the purchase price. So if bought something for \$100 they paid \$75. The \$100 is reported in the sales income and the subsidy would show the (-\$25) for amount discounted. This has been extended through Dec 2018.
- **Q**-Can you speak to the contributions drop? In Los Angeles our meetings are growing.
A-A couple of reasons for it: 1-A lot of rents for meetings have gone up and that is where the money first goes to. 2-A lot of people put in only a \$1 and that is all they can afford but a \$1 in 1976 when we formed is \$4 in today's economy. Some groups have a second collection for F.W.S. and some for their Delegates but rent most important plus economy not so stable.
- **Q**-Contributions have dropped 45% in the last 4 years, what strategy has the BOT come up with to deal with that and/or turn it around?
A-Last year the Conference approved a Motion to authorize the designing of a designated giving program which we hope will work towards improving that. The Groups and Intergroups need to go out and get the message out there as well. The BOT can only do so much but you as Delegates can go back to your Intergroups and your Intergroups Reps go back to your Groups. There is a place on the F.W.S. Website for contributions including giving during May (Individual Contribution Month) and November (Gratitude Month).
- **Q**-You have answered most of my questions but I think there is a lack of awareness of what F.W.S. is and does and I was wondering if any discussion by BOT to the Groups about this?
A-Not a discussion per se but information is published in the **F.W.S. Newsletter** and online but people don't open it or look at it. Another piece of mail, click and gone. So important for people to get the information out and trickle up.
- **Q**-Comment about decreased revenues and that in Asia there are a lot of young people online and doing recovery online and not a big mechanism for funding that as doing for free or little costs. When I looked at this Conference online and not knowing anybody from here I couldn't understand why this Conference would have that kind of fee and I couldn't stay the whole week due to another event so took the one-day option. Why such a high cost to attend the ABC/M?
A-We will get to that in the Expenses report in a moment but let me go back a moment. Our income was \$46,000 for the ABC/M last year and expenses well over that. We don't make money on Conferences and it isn't intended to be a money-maker but we can't do it for free either.

(continuation) **The Financial Report – Expenses**

- The BOT expenses which include travel to the Office, flight, accommodations are significantly lower this year because less visits necessary to the Office. ABC/M costs for the BOT higher this year because of 9 members on the board: Last year there were 6 members.
- Conference costs lower this year than last year.
- Contract services include: Accounting fees for audit \$6,300; legal consultation costs for copyright/trademarks are in line with last year; webmaster services are the same; outside bookkeeping services now used as bookkeeper left this fiscal year and went to a temp agency for bookkeeper but left after less than six months for better opportunity and now have gone to an outside CPA service which will save money over a temp agency plus have access to them 5 days/week since June.
- Rent is higher because expanded size of Office. Website upgrades in platforms. Phone and personal property tax higher with new copier. Upgraded Office security system. Office only gets what it needs.
- Payroll expenses include cost of living adjustments and full-time employment of Cristina and Hector from 32 hrs to 40 hrs/week as the workload has increased.

- This past weekend board passed a tentative budget for 2018-19 already. Waiting for CFC input to finalize budget. Last year's budget not approved until well into the Conference year. Prior budget distributed to Fellowship.
- The tentative budget shows a \$12,000 deficit and again comes down to contributions. Only so much we can do before cutting on services.
- Conference Committees spending about 20% of the money allocated last year and they requested significantly more than that. If Conference Committees have work that they are doing and need more funding than allocated in their budget, they can come back to the board and ask for more money.
- The job of the BOT is a fiduciary responsibility but the job of us as addicts is to reach the addict who still suffers. We need to ask for the help to get it and I am asking you to go back to your Groups/Intergroups and members to encourage contributions. The website has a link where you can email suggestions as well as a link to email the BOT.
- I have copies of the audited financial statements for those who want to see them and they are in the **F.W.S. Newsletter** Summer/June 2017.

Questions/Comments from the Floor:

- I was inspired to talk with a Montreal member and find they raised a lot of money to send their Delegate here. My community is struggling with a decline in contributions. They did not give to the F.W.S. because of this and dropped sending two to one Delegate this year. The Womens Retreat made \$1,100 because of "targeted asks". I think it is important to look at what happened and is it a decline in members or meetings; look at what is working and how some communities are able to focus and make money.
- **Q**-Ohio does not pay property taxes and in the line item on taxes not sure if F.W.S. is paying property taxes?
A-Texas pays a personal property tax.
- We include in our 7th Tradition collection the statement, "As you contributed to your disease so may you wish to contribute to your sobriety and recovery." Because nobody ever bought a porn magazine for a buck (\$1).
- **Q**-Earlier I was going to ask about the donation card and envelope where you send in contributions. I noticed there was a notation of a continuing donation through a credit card; do you do electronic cash transfers through the bank from my account to your account as some of us have credit card problems?
A-The F.W.S. Webmaster answered indicating that this will be discussed during her presentation tomorrow morning but the Office utilizes a service that accepts debit cards, credit cards and echecks. You can put your bank account information in there and does automated recurring contributions (weekly, monthly, bimonthly, quarterly, and annually or every two years). You can also enter your Group account so you can monitor your giving.
- **Q**-Do we have publicized online or phone meetings? I know in OA there is a button for weekly online contributions because no one there to pass the basket.
A-Thank you for that; we will look into it. Another respondent indicated that we do have phone meetings where each Group has a registration # and individuals may contribute using that # and it is credited to those meetings. Another respondent representing the WANA Phone Meetings indicated there is a button on their website where \$300-400/year is donated to F.W.S. and enough money collected to send her as a Delegate two years in a row.
- **Q**-Do we do any kind of tracking regarding new meetings, the amount of meetings and what are donations are?
A-The F.W.S. Webmaster answered yes and no. We only know of new meetings when they register. There are many new meetings that do not register because they have no awareness of F.W.S. or that they should register or what an Intergroup is. If they don't register and make a contribution we don't know who they are.

- **Q**-What about when we sell the Basic Text, any indication/insert in there mentioning F.W.S.?
A-Yes.
- **Q**-In many fellowships there is a ledger for 7th Tradition like in NA, can we provide?
A-There is the *Supporting S.L.A.A. The 60/40 Way* pamphlet which is posted as a free pamphlet on the website. Any individual who donates \$250 or more will receive a letter from the Office thanking them for their contribution and it is required by the IRS that you receive it and that it says no goods or services were provided for this money.

The assembly ended with announcements including a reminder if you come into the room late please see the Executive Director for the count of voting members present and quorum. Store open Thurs 9:30-2pm only.

Twelve Concepts Presentation: Tuesday July 25, 2017 - 5:00 pm

- Facilitator – Bob G.
- Assistant Facilitator – Steve L.
- Timekeeper – Sarah E.

CCC Chair had a few announcements:

1. Tradition 10 states S.L.A.A. has no opinion on outside issues so we ask that no discussions on politics, religions or any other controversy during the ABM at any of its activities (auction, meals).
2. This a 12-Step program and anonymity is the spiritual foundation of our program and we ask if you get a phone call while you are in session please do not answer that call until you step outside the door of the assembly-do not answer the call in this room.
3. It is not appropriate to ask someone how they are going to vote on something.

Gabriel G., CCC member, introduced Concepts 10, 11 and 12 saying this is not my presentation but your presentation. If you get tired of sitting there you have choices today. Let's start with the "Point of Clarification", this is for you. If you look in the ABM Binder there is the CSM 2017 with a diagram showing you as a member are on top of the inverted triangle followed by the Groups/Intergroups.

Show of hands: Who hasn't heard of the Concepts? 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 Intergroups 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. (2014 CCAC merged with the CSTC to become the CSTCC).
- 2012: Motion to approve Twelve Concepts
- 2016: Motion to incorporate Concepts into the By-Laws

We are studying Concepts 10, 11 and 12 this year. We have been studying three Concepts each year since 2014 ABM.

3. Reading of the S.L.A.A. Concept 10: Every service responsibility is matched by equal service authority – the scope of this authority is always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and by-laws.

Reading of Concept 10 from the A.A. *Illustrated Concepts*

Concept 10 Checklist adapted:

1. Do we understand “authority” and “responsibility” as they relate to group conscience decisions by Intergroup Representatives and our Delegates?
2. Why is delegation of “authority” so important to the overall effectiveness of S.L.A.A.? Do we use this concept to define the scope of “authority?”

Questions/Comments on Concept 10

- Q-In 2nd Q which Concept are we referring to? A-Concept 10.
- Q-Tradition is in a lower case “t”, is that a misprint? A-No.

4. Reading of the S.L.A.A. Concept 11: The trustees need the best possible committees, staff, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, systems of rotation, and rights and duties are always matters of serious concern.

Reading of Concept 11 from the A.A. *Illustrated Concepts*

Concept 11 Checklist adapted:

1. How do we encourage our special paid workers to exercise their traditional “Right of Participation?”
2. Do we practice rotation in all our service positions?

Questions/Comments on Concept 11

- Answer to Q1 on the checklist is that the Staff exercises their right of participation by being here at this ABM because they have a lot of knowledge about how the Office works and how F.W.S. functions. They share their experience, strength and hope with us. Q2 on the checklist depends on the size as hard thing to do when you have 4 people in the Office. We have had this problem with our local Intergroup. Admirable goal but not always achievable.
- Concept talks about giving the trustees power to hire staff and consultants that is appropriate. Hire appropriate staff for appropriate service for appropriate price.
- Most of us in our appropriate levels of service don’t work with paid people. What we do is allow the newest member to speak his/her mind and bring up issues important to him/her in the program.
- Q-I come from the beverage program and am familiar with the Concepts there but have never made the transition over to this Fellowship. I need to do more and interested in doing so. Don’t see the need for rotation; e.g. F.W.S. Webmaster doing a good job for 10 years and don’t see need to rotate this position. Can you address this?
A-A.A. has an elaborate service structure and I have tried to adapt the Checklist to our Fellowship and have tried to interpret and add verbiage appropriately.
- Only 3 employees at the Office and each are cross-trained and that is the purpose of the A.A. rotations. So if mailroom associate doesn’t show up one day the office assistant can do the job.

5. Reading of the S.L.A.A. Concept 12: The Conference observes the spirit of S.L.A.A. Tradition,

- a. taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power;
- b. that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle;
- c. that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others;
- d. that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity;
- e. that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy;
- f. that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Fellowship it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

Reading of Concept 12 from the *A.A. Illustrated Concepts*.

Concept 12 Checklist adapted:

- How do we guard against becoming a “seat of perilous wealth or power?”
- How do we practice prudent use of our Seventh Tradition contributions and literature revenue?
- Do we insure the spiritual liberties of all S.L.A.A. members by not placing any member in the position of absolute authority over others?
- Do we try to reach important decisions by thorough discussion, vote and, where possible, substantial unanimity?
- As guardians of S.L.A.A.’s traditions, are we ever justified in being personally punitive?
- Are we careful to avoid public controversy?
- Do we always try to treat each other with mutual respect and love?

Questions/Comments on Concept 12

- **Q**-You mentioned this is the 4th year you have been giving this presentation. Is it possible to get the 3 previous years from you?
A-I can give you last years but Rick B. did the two before me.
- **Q**-I am thinking about Concept 11, can we go back to it? **A**-Yes.
I am concerned around the Fellowship’s outreach to different communities that are underrepresented. I find my recovery really suffers because of a lack of diversity in the S.L.A.A. community where I find it challenging. It is not just me as I have a sponsee, one of color that struggles like me. This is critical to my recovery. I want this conversation to become part of the awareness of what unity means, of composition of our board, our staff. It requires a really comprehensive approach like board cultural competency training, awareness at each of our events and how we conduct ourselves. The assumptions we come with as we are in a very global period of time, a lot of integration. Corporations adopt diversity policies and statements; 12 Step programs has a foundation coming from a perspective of white men from the 40s which I feel has not been really looked at and is not evolving to represent a community that really needs these Steps and tools. It is critical if we want to be relevant today that we integrate an awareness of diversity issues, cultural sensitivity, and outreach awareness in everything that we do.
- **Q**-Last year you presented a construct that was meaningful to me. The triangle with words suicide, homicide and genocide?
A-The Steps keep me from suicide; the Traditions keep me from homicide; and, the Concepts keep me from genocide.
- A situation came to my attention as co-chair of my Intergroup of a man that was chronically 13-stepping female members. I read in the **A.A. 12 and 12** last night and it pretty much said can’t do anything as actions cannot be punitive or incite public controversy. The group had a group conscience and the decision was made to ban the man. I am thinking our common welfare comes first as personal recovery depends on unity. I would be interested to hear others opinions.

Announcements by ED and CCC Chair indicated that ABM Agenda Items Deadline is 7 pm tonight.
General Assembly adjourned for the day at 6:00 pm with the Serenity Prayer.

Wednesday July 26, 2017

After a bus trip to the Founder's Meeting in Newton Tuesday night (organized by NEI) and breakfast the General Assembly began.

F.W.S. Website Presentation: Wednesday July 26, 2017 – 8:05 am

- Facilitator – Stephen F.
- Assistant Facilitator – Lindsey H.
- Backup Facilitator – Irv B.
- Timekeeper – Mary Jane B.
- Timekeeper – Seth S.
- Spiritual reminder – Roberto Z.
- Vote Counters – Rick S. and Carole M.

The session began with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer followed by the reading of the:

- 12 Steps – Matt F.
- 12 Traditions read by Christiane S. in German
- 12 Concepts – Joe C.

A reminder that for the Digital ABM Binder you will need to exit out of it and reload it for the update/final ABM Agenda distributed this morning.

The count is **50/52 voting members are present** and there is a quorum (42).

Announcement of the Question of the Day from *the Journal* editor.

F.W.S. Website Presentation by the F.W.S. Webmaster

Beth S. indicated this ABM represents 10 years as the F.W.S. Webmaster. I am an avid user of the F.W.S. Website and my browser says I have visited the website 39,953 times. My report will be in two parts: 1-*What are we doing now?*, 2-*What are we doing next?*" and a handout has been provided.

What are we doing now?

- F.W.S. Website was rebuilt last year; mobile ready, cleaner design, added secure SSL, a static IP address and private server; represents stability and security plus scalable as move into future.
- The front page focuses on the newcomer now and includes the 8 Core Documents in 19 languages- thank you to CTC and all the people who worked so hard work getting that done.
- Members in service can find what they need on Member Services and Conference Service tabs.
- Committee Resources, Projects, Documents. Committees have a Committee Corner on the website where they can post events and ask for participation from the Fellowship.
- The F.W.S. Store provides all literature available including the free English (5) and Spanish pamphlets (9).
- Sales on the Store of mp3 audio of *the Journal* issues and speaker selections; always adding to it.
- Online forms for F.W.S. Contributions, ABM Registrations and Surveys.
- CSTCC Articles – That is a list of 59 articles with questions asked by Groups/Intergroups/members over the years and archived with a searchable data base and is really useful.
- 767 Registered Groups (up from 702 last year),
- 77 Registered Intergroups (down from 81 last year). There are still a lot of groups not registered.
- Website had 272,634 visitors in 2016 (287,912 unique visitors in 2015)
- 213 Countries Reached (210 in 2015 and 208 in 2014).
- 866 Orders packed with 35,765 items and shipped to: United States (85%) , Canada (6%), Australia (3%) and Netherlands (2%).
- There is a 25% reduction off all international orders in an effort to defray some of the shipping costs, duties and taxes for such orders.
- Worldwide Meeting Directory, Intergroups, Face-to-Face groups, Telephone meetings, Online Meetings. Free digital Starter Kits and Meeting formats.

- Contacts for F.W.S. Office, Board of Trustees, and Conference Committees via email.
- Quarterly **F.W.S. Newsletter** with over 1100 subscribers. Newsletter is now sent using third-party service. It's faster and more reliable.

What are we doing next?

- Evaluate meeting database.
- Adding digital products
- Continue web design
- Further outreach
- New survey to learn who is the Fellowship.

Questions/Comments for F.W.S. Website Report

- **Q**-How do contributions online work and what is max? **A**-There is a different secure service provider and \$20,000 is the maximum an individual may contribute. There is no limit for Groups/Intergroups.
- **Q**-How searchable is the Group list? How do we avoid duplicate registrations? **A**-With each registration we ask for the Group name, location and as much as the Group is willing to provide as well as a contact person. Ask for country, state or province and a zip code. I do check for duplicate registrations.
- **Q**-In your presentation you listed India, Turkey and Indonesia in the top 10 searching the F.W.S. website, how do we do outreach/get a hold of them? Could there be a welcome message somehow? **A**-We do have literature in 19 languages on the home page. We don't have all the Asian languages but some. Websites do not give enough information to contact them.
- **Q**-Notice there are 12 meetings in my area but only 2 listed and this can affect contributions? **A**-Need to communicate with Groups to register. I would love for all Groups/Intergroups to understand what F.W.S. is, what it does and why it is important to support. I agree that we have some work to do in that area.
- **Q**-What efforts are made to make the website welcoming to a variety of genders, gender identities, sexual orientations? **A**-On the front page there is a paragraph welcoming anyone.
- Suggest a more welcoming statement on the home page; one that is super inclusive and specific.
- **Q**-You suggested PayPal but is that just for literature? **A**-Online Store accepts PayPal for any purchase and we also have a PayPal.me account so if you would like to contribute to F.W.S. using PayPal you can. Use [PayPal.me/slaafws](https://www.paypal.me/slaafws) and it will take you to a page to donate and there is a space to note scholarship fund, or anything else. There are fees charged to F.W.S. but not sender.
- Suggest that PayPal be more prominent on website.

Executive Director – Who Are We Reaching Report

Executive Director indicated she is the one that opens the mail and the one to tell the accountant which Group/Intergroup/individual is contributing. It is very important to use the registration # for a Group/Intergroup as well as provide the city/state/time/day/location; love checks but need more information for contributions.

Who are we reaching? What are we shipping at the Office? July 2016 – June 2017 Report handed out.

- Shipped 2842 orders with 1769 shipped in box/envelope, 116 the Journal, and 112 mp3 audio downloads only with 627 other download-only items.
- Of the 1769 physical shipments 1630 to US recipients and 139 international.
- Who got the Journal this year? 171 print subscriptions that are now printed in-house of which 22 are international subscriptions; there are 64 digital subscribers with 26 1-yr and 38 2-yr subscriptions.
- Who is buying the Basic Text as an e-Book? 1967 total downloads (iTunes and Kindle): 1508 US, 280 UK, Canada 69 and Australia 57.

Board Election Report

Rick B., BDC Chair, indicated that electing trustees at the ABM is one of the legal requirements to maintain the 501(c)(3) status as a non-profit corporation.

- Every year 3 trustees rotate out of service; this year it is Earl D., Jason S. and me.
- Every year there are 3 slots for trustees that are available as per the By-Laws. We elect 3 trustees for 3-year terms. Currently there are two people running, Earl D. and Jason S. There is one extra slot available.
- There were two trustees appointed to terms that were longer than a year and you are to confirm them; they are Ashly B. and Nancy G.

On Friday at 8 am the doors are closed and the number of voting members will be matched to the ballots; extra ballots will be ripped up. People who have the right to vote will vote for trustees and confirmation of appointed trustees

- For the trustees you can vote for no people, one, two, three but no more than that (any ballot with four will be invalid)
- For the confirmations you can vote for none, one or two of them.

You know you are elected if you have at least 50% of the vote. If there are 3 trustees on the ballot and they all get 49% of the vote there are no trustees elected.

There will be several volunteers helping me, tabulators, a 1st year Delegate who will be an observer and then someone standing by the door to be sure no one goes in or out. These members will be asked not to mention any numbers ever to anyone. If anyone who is up for election wants to know the election number they may go to Pam Martin, Executive Director, and ask that question but nobody else.

- Floor nominations are now open and any voting member of this ABM may nominate someone and/or self by coming up to the microphone. I will let you know when they come to an end.
- There will be a Q/A time for board candidates Thursday afternoon. If you have any questions please see me or Rich K.

Board Committee Reports - Complete reports are in the [ABM Binder](#). 2 minutes.

- **Board Chair** – Bob G.: Appreciation that the motion to pass the designated giving program last year and the new BFSC formed as a result; 25% literature reduction to international countries reaches out to the addict who still suffers; the Journal is now profitable since “in house” printing; and, looking to develop “e-literature” once copyright concerns addressed.
- **BDC Chair** – Rick B.: Collects and stores all documents for trustees and created a pdf BOT Manual binder so a new board member gets it right away. Developed a goals and task sheet for the year. Reviewed the board self-evaluation which is done on the Sunday before the ABM. Developed the BOT flyer and non-BOT flyer updated. Approved new subcommittee that helps to facilitate the nominations and elections at the ABM. Recommended 2 board candidates for appointment.
- **BFC Chair** – Rich K.: All financial statements reported quarterly in the **F.W.S. Newsletter** once approved by the BOT. Will be doing an inventory audit soon and developed 4-5 policies approved by the board. Work with auditors providing information. Provide the board with a budget to approve.
- **BFSC Chair** – Earl D.: This is a new board committee started in the BPMC and formed after the Conference approved the motion to develop a designated giving program last year. Create a long-term sustainable finance plan. Clear demarcation between BFC and the BFSC. Just forming charter/mission statement with a priority of designated giving program.
- **BHRPC Chair** – Steve B.: - Had BOT Chair, ED, Curtis B. Boston, Cheryl-Lynn D. FL who has expertise in HR and Pam Mac from Dallas TX. Meet monthly and receive reports from the Office. We monitor hours, overtime, and personal time off. Consider matters of salary bonuses and submit to the Officers who make the decisions. Completed *Employee Manual* suitable for a small office like F.W.S.: Includes policies around conflicts of interest and sexual harassment. Submitted to BOT for approval.

- **BOC Chair** – Jason S.: Became chair when Rick went to chair BDC. Finalizing a membership survey to the Fellowship soon. Submitted IFD for S.L.A.A. app on the ABM Agenda this year and looking at bus bench as advertising tool.
- **BPMC Chair** – Susan G.: F.W.S. Webmaster serves on this committee. How can we serve our membership. We help organize this ABC/M and the IRCs. We look at bids for next year’s ABC/M and will be announcing the ABC/M 2018 location during the last General Assembly. One of our subcommittees monitors copyrights and that translations are true and veritable. Gave input on membership survey. Submitted IFD for a 50th Anniversary Basic Text, aided webmaster in updates to website creating a mobile friendly and searchable directory. Implemented a QR code for registering Groups/Intergroups.

Conference Committee Reports - Complete reports are in the ABM Binder. 2 minutes

- **CAC** – P.A. Chair: Nine active members; submitted the *Anorexia Recovery Tools* draft literature as an IFD last year and now a motion on this ABM Agenda. There is a designated first responder each month to respond to emails received through the F.W.S. website. An initial review has been completed of the second draft of the “Anorexia 4-5-6-7” booklet and the goal is to submit as an IFD next year. New Anorexia Starter Kit now available for \$12.60.
- **CBC** – Stephen F. Chair: Reconstituted the CBC last year at the ABM. We read through the By-Laws once and submitted 2 Motions to update the By-Laws for content and clarity this year. Will read through again this year and put in language about the observer.
- **CCC** – Phillip W. Chair: Responsible for facilitation of the ABM, liaison for the Conference to the BOT, responsible for the ABM Agenda through the ARS, tasked with approving the ABM Minutes along with the BOT Chair, for the last 2 years has had a revision work group that meet almost weekly to redo the CSM and facilitates the Chairs Call which reports on their progress.
- **CDC** – Diana S. Acting Chair. There is a four part mission but the short version is that we represent and honor the diversity of sex and love addiction. Very active and largest committee served on this year. Two big projects this year was a collection of diverse stories to be put in Diversity Focus Journal. We have 6 but need 20 stories. Another big project was audio diversity shares in different languages on an app but it was denied because already done.
- **CFC** – Christiane S. Chair: Responsible for working with the board to increase donations and distribute monies to the Conference Committees based on availability and requests. There is a need for creative minds on this committee especially after the Treasurer’s Financial Report yesterday. We lost two very creative members as appointed to the board last year but need more members this year. Do not need a financial background to join our committee.

Session ended with announcements at 9:30am. Return 2:15 pm Sharp

Wednesday July 26, 2017 2:15pm

After Conference Committee meetings and lunch the General Assembly reconvened.

- Facilitator – Steve B.
- Assistant Facilitator – Lisa C.
- Backup Facilitator – Stephen F.
- Time keepers – Mary Jane B. and Seth S.
- Spiritual reminder – Roberto Z.
- Vote Counters – Rick S. and Carole M.

There are **50/52 voting members present** and there is a quorum (42).

(continuation) **Conference Committee Reports**

- **CHIC** – Matthew N. Chair along with Kara B. This past year the CHIC has been at a standstill but restarting with a change in day of call from Thurs to Sat, lack of consistency in membership and have not gotten our projects off the ground but during session today restarted. The two projects are: 1-Speaker Panel Program where we help Intergroups go into prisons, hospitals, women’s shelters and other institutions and 2-Simple Steps Plain Language project to provide the Steps in easier to read level.
- **CHRC** – Amalia E. Chair: Meet on 1st Mon of the month. Wrote the Healthy Relationships pamphlet presented as IFD last year and Motion this year. A lot of material for other pamphlets.
- **CICC** – Phillip W. Chair: Responsible for ongoing and existing communications between Intergroups and Lone Groups and helping new Intergroups. Meet 3rd Sun of the month. Submitted an IFD on the ABM Agenda to eliminate the word “Lone” Group because it is confusing and may have a negative connotation. Have 3 members and hard to keep lines of communication going on a consistent basis with 77 Intergroups. If interested please come and see us today.
- **CJC** – Lisa C. Chair: The committee tries to let members know about *the Journal*, our meeting in print. It is bimonthly and can be subscribed to in the digital or print version. Voting on topics for upcoming issues and information on *the Journal* in the Supplemental Packets with a complimentary copy of the Journal. Encourage everyone to submit articles and write about the Question of the Day. Have a Meditation Book that has been in the committee for 5 years and is in the issues of many Journals. Working on putting the past 10 years of *the Journal* in a digital issue. Just posted Sober Dating Focus booklet on “e-Journal”, trying for a print version.
- **CLC** – Tim P. Chair: Wants to thank members on the committee. Working on document submission process and overall Appendix J this year. Improve communication with writing groups using liaisons and better interactions. One of the complaints of writing groups was attending 90 calls. Four projects have moved forward as Motions this year. Looking to move projects through that carry our message but also increase revenue to the program. Discussing draft literature that has been distributed outside our process.
- **CMRC** – No report.
- **CPIC** – Stephen F. reported on behalf of David B./Interim Chair and Jay G./Interim Vice-Chair meets 3rd Sun of the month and Rick B. BOT liaison. On Aug 20th hold elections as David B. Vice-Chair for over 5 years. Projects include continuation of: Suggestions for Public Outreach, the IFF is the InterFellowship Forum and is a website to create communication between the “S” Fellowships; the Outreach Kit designed for Intergroups reaching out to local counselors and institutions; and the Tools for Building Websites newest project. See flyer on the table.
- **CSPC** – Anne K., Vice-Chair reporting and Cathy G. Chair: Support sponsorship in a number of ways: 1-working on draft literature, see flyers on the table; e.g. Recovery Partners, Sponsoring an Anorectic, Service Sponsorship and Developing a Sponsorship Return from Isolation. We also respond to inquiries about sponsorship received through F.W.S. There were 38 requests about sponsors this year. Last year we were told that the method we were using to match sponsors and sponsees long distance was no longer appropriate. Spent this year coming up with ideas about how to help members with sponsoring. This year we will have a phone meeting on sponsorship using a traditional format including speakers and discussion followed by fellowship after meeting. If people after the meeting want to exchange phone #s as in a regular face-to-face meeting they may do so. August 28th is the date of the first meeting and there is flyer on the table.
- **CSC** – Lindsey H. member speaking on behalf of the committee: Rob S. Co-Chair and Joe C. Co-Chair. Current projects focus on completing the Why Not Get Involved flyer and the cartoon service pamphlet. Also post flyer to join the committee on the website. Work with CSC on a service sponsor pamphlet.

- **CSTCC** – James B. Vice-Chair reporting and David B. Chair: Two functions: 1-Working on a Concepts booklet and will submit as an IFD/Motion next year; and, 2-Provide feedback on questions about the fellowship using the Traditions and is an ongoing project. Articles regularly posted on the F.W.S. Website.
- **CTC** – David F. Co-Chair: Martin K. from the Netherlands was the previous Chair and don't really have a Chair right now. We support Intergroups who are translating S.L.A.A. materials and small this year. In Sweden published a copyrighted version of Chapter Four and Five of the Basic Text. In Poland published first authorized version of the Basic Text in Polish. In the Netherlands working on a draft in Dutch translation of the Basic Text to come out later this year. New thing is a Spanish group set up.

ABM Agenda Items

The session began with **52/52 voting members present:**

- **42 is the Quorum**
- **35 is 2/3rds that is binding on the board**
- **27 is the simple majority**

17o02/16-06 Motion: Approve the “Step Questions Workbook” as Conference Approved Literature.

Committee Comments not on the ABM Agenda - none

Pros and Cons

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pro – Los Angeles Intergroup approves and encourages use of this workbook for working the Steps. • Pro – Los Angeles Intergroup supports approval of this literature. Personally use it with sponsor and sponsees. • Pro – From the other coast; spent a lot of time looking up stuff for sponsees, this is a guide not a bible. We don't do the Steps without a sponsor so it is like a guided tour. • Pro – San Francisco Intergroup supports this document and suggests using HP as gender neutral. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Con – There are minor formatting (e.g. use words for numerals) and grammar issues- but major issue with dating plan suggesting sex on the fifth date-too soon. Find waiting 60-90 days better. • Con – We need a Step Study Guide but suggests Dating Plan be a separate document. Most of it good but needs a little more work. • Con – There are concerns of copyright in the text where it gives quotes.; p66 of <u>Basic Text</u> suggests using <u>A.A. Big Book</u> and <u>12x12</u> but I would like to see page #s for quotes. • Con – My faith requires I am celibate until marriage so have concerns about the dating recommendations. |
|---|---|

Point of Order – If a literature piece is rejected today will that piece be able to be reintroduced with comments from today? **A**-Normally when a Motion (is voted down) has not passed it cannot return the next year with one exception and that is draft literature. If this document is not Conference-approved today it can come back and keep the same spot on the ABM Agenda.

Friendly Amendment that “check the copyrights, take out part that ‘after five dates can have sex’ in the Dating Plan section, and change the Steps from numerals to words.”

Motion to Table until we can deal with the copyright issues. Facilitator indicated that **To Table** means until the next year, we cannot **Table** for this year.

We have a **Motion to Amend** and treated like a regular vote.

Point of Order - *Robert's Rules of Order* say Tabling takes precedence? **A**-We operate under a modified version of the *Robert's Rules of Order* as outlined in the CSM 2017 Business Meeting Process.

Submitter, Lisa C., accepts the Friendly Amendment.

Point of Order – Doesn't the Friendly Amendment need a second? **A**-No, because the Friendly Amendment only has to be accepted by the Submitter of a Motion. **Q**-But, an Amendment needs a second, right? **A**-Yes, but this is a Friendly Amendment.

The Motion has been amended with a Friendly Amendment and now move to a Vote. The Motion on the floor now reads, "To approve the Step Questions Workbook as Conference-approved literature after the amendments of removing the portion referring to having sex after five dates, changing the numerals to words, and the document can be reviewed by the board for copyrights."

Motion to Table the Motion with the Friendly Amendment – Seth S.

Facilitator indicates that the first thing to do is to vote on the Motion to Table.

Is there a second to the Motion to Table? -Anthony P. seconds.

Are there any questions about the voting options only?

Q-If it is tabled does that mean this document will be revised to reflect what has been said?

A-That will be up to the Submitter. It can be left as it is and it will keep its same place on the ABM Agenda or revise it and then it becomes a new Motion.

There **are 52/52 voting members present** and there is a quorum (42).

30 seconds of silence

Vote was 10-42. Motion to Table defeated and will proceed with the vote on the **Amended Motion**.

30 seconds of silence

1st Vote 38-12-2 for 17o02/16-06A: Motion with a Friendly Amendment

Minority Opinions

- On p43 it says, "We can talk on the phone for but an hour once a day or so." I am so bothered by this dating plan. I am supposed to be dating a few people at a time and talking to a person on the phone for an hour a day is a lot of intimacy. We need to remove the Dating Plan portion.
- The Comments section on p43 point 4 of the ABM Agenda says, "In general, this document operates under the principle that thinking about the disease and figuring it out is the same as recovery. This does not line up with his experience of the steps. The pattern of most of the work seems to be 'think about yourself, make some decisions about actions to take, and then tell your sponsor what those decisions are.'" These comments come from an Intergroup and a Group who worked with this document. On p44 point 5 "...the qualifier worksheet might be damaging to the sobriety of the sponsee, in that it involves taking another person's inventory without any self-reflection on what attracted us to this person and in what ways we have sought this relationship or played a role in it. This will lead to resentment, that most deadly of emotions, and a lack of awareness that this most recent 'qualifier' is just another manifestation of a long pattern of sex and love addiction on our part. Perhaps a better inventory at this stage would be, 'am I addicted to this person', listing all the ways in which you display love addiction behaviors. There are many pages of concerns in the Comments section and needs more work.

Q-If the amendments result in a greater than 25% change in what we are presented does it have to be re-voted on? **A**-Yes, if the board modifies it more than 25% it is brought back to the Conference for approval.

Q-So if the submitter modifies it more than 25% and the board doesn't change it, whose modification is that? The friendly amendment has been accepted and we don't know what that is going to look like? **A**-There is no clear process on that.

Q-Are those changes part of the 25%? **A**-I would think so but will have to see what are the final changes.

- The concern is that we are exposed to significant copyright issues and that we don't have a large enough vet on this to catch all those. Consequences are not insignificant to the Fellowship as a whole.
- Motion states we accept as Conference-approved literature and going to go through copyrights and change a couple of words but I don't think that is enough. May not see this document again and it is going to be approved without the Conference seeing it again.

30 seconds of silence

2nd Vote 27-20-5 for 17o02/16-06A Motions passes

Challenge to the Group Conscience – Bob G. requests as abstentions and “no” votes close.

We will move to an immediate yes or no vote on whether the final vote represents the Group Conscience.

There will be no discussion. This is an up or down vote. A majority vote rules, with no minority opinion. The question is whether the Motion to Conference approve the Steps Questions Workbook with an amendment is the Group Conscience?

30 seconds of silence

Vote 25-27 for 17o02/16-06A Conference voted that the 2nd Vote was not the Group Conscience.

Session closed with announcements by the ED at 3:31pm for a break.

General Assembly - Wednesday July 26, 2017 3:48pm

After a short break the General Assembly reconvened.

- Facilitator – Nancy G.
- Assistant Facilitator – Glen F.
- Backup Facilitator – David F.
- Time keepers – Mary Jane B. and Seth S.
- Spiritual reminder – Roberto Z.
- Vote Counters – Rick S. and Carole M.

The assembly began with a count of **50/52 voting members present**. There is a quorum.

17o03/16-07 Motion: Approve the “Companion to Chapter Four of the Basic Text of S.L.A.A., Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous” as Conference Approved Literature.

Committee Comments not on the ABM Agenda - none

Pros and Cons

- Pro – S. Florida developed this guide based on the Basic Text; turned into Step Study done in 12 weeks; done regularly for 2 years by several Groups; well vetted; advocate of the Basic Text.
- Pro – Have worked this Chapter 4 Companion; all newcomers should work the 12 Steps from the Basic Text first.
- Pro – From Broward County and not aware that is where it is from; went through the Steps in a book not Conference approved and really didn't like it. Saw this guide last year at the ABM and used it with sponsees; really believe in sticking with Conference approved literature and let's keep it simple.
- Con – In a perfect world would like these first two Items to come together into a Step Study Guide. Wish it could have more of the columns and charts from the Steps Questions Workbook.

There has been a change in the count; there is now **52/52 voting members present**.

30 seconds of silence

1st Vote 31-9-12 17o03/16-07 Motion

Minority Opinion

- Language didactic didn't address anorexia or obsessive/compulsive romance issues and didn't speak to me at all.

30 seconds of silence

2nd Vote 39-2-11

17o03/16-07 Motion passes by more than a 2/3rds vote (35) and is binding on the BOT.

17n04/16-08 Motion: Approve the "Healthy Relationships Pamphlet," Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous as Conference Approved Literature.

Committee Comments not on the ABM Agenda

17n04/16-08A - Friendly Amendment proposed by Sarah E. on behalf of the CHRC

Change 1st sentence of the 3rd paragraph (p 77 of Appendix A) to the following: "Healthy Relationships can bring challenges, and can also be frontiers for deeper exploration along the recovery journey."

Submitter Amalia L. approves.

Pros and Cons:

- Pro – Solution oriented, liked check lists.
- Pro – Los Angeles Intergroup voted 41-0 July 9th in favor of this draft.
- Pro – Feedback from last year was to take out stories and make it more inclusive of the Steps, Traditions and Basic Text. In 41 years there has not been anything on this topic. There is little direction on how to enter into a committed partnership. WANA meetings are waiting for this literature.
- Con – Language full of "Rich-isms", long sentences; e.g. 1-p78 "How logical, then, that we should, as adults, find ourselves rejecting certain "love candidates" not because they are wrong but because they are a little too right—in the sense of seeming somehow excessively balanced, mature, understanding, and reliable - given that, in our hearts, such rightness feels foreign and unearned." I am lost. If I am a newcomer give it to me straight. I don't like saying "battle with withdrawal" as withdrawal best thing that happened to me; 2-p80 "match our partners energy", my partner was a 'rage-a-holic' if I matched his energy I would be in big trouble, best thing for me is to go to God; 3-p82-"you may be right", if my partner used that with me I would say oh yeah you are the authority on who is right? We would be just getting in deeper. Okay to say "I hear you." Just don't like "you" statements of any kind.
- Con – Basic Text talks about building relationships and does not talk about healthy relationships; concerned with putting that in our literature as it looks like we are judging. Is this healthy or is this unhealthy; what is healthy for me may not be healthy for you. If I am building a partnership that is between me, God and person I am working with in that partnership. I guess it is a kind of 'meta' issue.

17n04/16-08A Amended Motion: Change 1st sentence, 3rd paragraph (p 77 of Appendix A) to read: “Healthy Relationships can bring challenges, and can also be frontiers for deeper exploration along the recovery journey.”

1st Vote: 44-5-3

Minority Opinion

- This is very rushed and not sure if everyone in the room really read this; from the opening to closing sentences. Is this really what we want to go around the world and get translated? Is this our experience, strength and hope when it comes to relationships?

30 seconds of silence

- Has this been read by a professional? Debtors Anonymous hires professionals to review their literature and a prolonged process. We have approved a pamphlet in one ABM but I am new here and may not know the process.
- It not a long pamphlet but there are two things that should not be in there: 1-table with the 3 columns with difficult abstract words in there and not sure it is helpful; and 2-Signs of Recovery which you can read anytime you like. The short section on suggested language to use not constructive either. Not finished by any means.

Q-If move to table this motion/document it is moved to next year’s ABM Agenda? And are changes to the text possible? **A-**If the Motion to Table passes this is true.

17n04/16-08A Motion to Table by Kara B. second by Paul T.

Q-My understanding is that a Motion to Table can only happen during the discussion because we have already had a vote. Is a Motion to Table allowed? **A-**Motion to Table can happen at any time during the voting process.

Q-Even after the 1st Vote? **A-**Yes. Only a Motion to Withdraw cannot be made after the first vote.

30 seconds of silence

Vote: 16-36 Motion to Table does not pass.

30 seconds of silence

2nd Vote 38-11-3 Motion 17n04/16-08A passes with greater than 2/3rds vote (35) and is binding on the board. The assembly closed with announcements.

General Assembly - Wednesday July 26, 2017 5pm

After a short break the General Assembly reconvened.

- Facilitator – Rick B.
- Assistant Facilitator – Ashly B.
- Backup Facilitator – James B.
- Time keeper – Mary Jane B. and Seth S.
- Spiritual reminder – Roberto Z.
- Vote Counters – Rick S. and Carole M.

The assembly began with a count of **49/52 voting members present** and there is a quorum (42).

17n05/15-05 Motion: Approve the updated text of “40 Questions for Self-Diagnosis of Sex and Love Addiction” as Conference Approved Literature.

Committee Comments not on the ABM Agenda

- BOT is not in support of having a separate 40 Questions Core Document that is different from the 40 Questions pamphlet; and the BOT would like to see the two merged into a new Core Document that is not limited to 40 Questions.

Pros and Cons:

- Pro – GDVI. How many have attended at least 6 consecutive meetings? How many believe in principles over personalities? We don't need these 40 new Qs but others do. These Qs designed to elicit a gut reaction; a yes or no. To attract vs. promotion. Deliberate attempt to find themselves and find their behavior in these Qs. These Qs are for those outside the rooms. Not trying to replace a Core Document but to update a Core Document.
- Pro – GDVI original 40 Qs are antiquated. First computer brought home and addiction took off. Need to know the dangers of looking at internet porn.
- Pro – West coast, San Francisco/East Bay more or less in favor of the new 40 Qs. Appreciated increase in Qs re: legal issues because of the legal ramifications of our addiction; mention of porn and the internet but reduction in Qs on romance. There are other "S" Fellowships that deal with pure sex issues but there is the love and romance addiction; so why only 40 Qs why not 50 Qs?
- Con – UK Intergroup concerned about particular wording; e.g. borderline illegal behavior which puts us at risk and against our common welfare. Qs raised #9-gone out of your way to stare or stalk someone, #21-do you engage in exposing your body in public, #25 have you watched films in sexual situation w/o their knowing, #36 have you encouraged or engaged with individual in sex against their will? Not suggesting not to raise the Qs but to reword it so it doesn't refer so directly to illegal behavior.
- Con – San Antonio Intergroup appreciates the update to the Qs especially as it pertains to the internet and other more recent technologies; do not think document presented here is ready for publication. In addition to general formatting issues there are only two Qs on anorexia/#13 is really 2 Qs and think that the two 40 Qs documents could be merged forming more than 40Qs; opposed to substantial portion of new 40 Qs.
- Con – Greater New York Intergroup opposes the draft. Several Qs want to maintain but this is a Core Document. We read it every Sat night in the Beginners meeting after the 12 Steps are read. There are many Qs in the Core Document of the 40 Qs that stand the test of time; while they may not specifically deal with or say internet and computers you can apply internet behaviors. One Q we are fond of is #32 "Do you feel that your sexual and romantic behavior is about as rewarding as hijacking a revolving door." The current 40 Qs stand the test of time. Internet does not need to be addressed as you can already apply them without explicitly expressed.
- Con – The order of the Qs is a problem to start off with; sex right away a problem. 40 Qs used in the 1st Step but these new 40 Qs won't work. One Q relating to anorexia. Lot of addition with the word sex and not going to work for romance/love addicts.

30 seconds of silence

The count is now **51/52 voting members present**. There is a quorum (42).

1st Vote 21-25-5 17n05/15-05

Minority Opinion

- Professional surveys show that 85% of people expressing an intimacy disorder (all of us as members) expresses differently and there is no sexual contact it is just porn; and, please remember that the *Anorexia* pamphlet has 50 Qs. Just opening the doors wider for those who still suffer and underneath it all it is the same disease.
- The psychometric analysis done by one of our own is also a scientist with a PhD, very technical and in summary polled 500 in our area of which 145 (34%) responded with a reliability of greater than 0.70 which is reliable and acceptable. Four factors and 10 Qs each with scores of 0.86 or above showing reliable. The questions help show you who you are and wake you up.
- Go to men's jails and take 40 Qs in and many have cross addictions, find that drug addicts have clever minds and new 40 Qs better.
- The 40 Qs key to me when entered program and many of them did not apply. I find the new 40 Qs do apply.
- In May presented the rough draft of the German translation of the draft 40 Qs and there were 70-80 members present. No vote but very well received.
- San Francisco/East Bay Fellowship very diverse with lots of different viewpoints and Intergroup supports the update.
- Sexual compulsivity not in original 40 Qs and experienced a lot of shame as a result. If other women see that, they might come in the same way but then grow because of the program.

30 seconds

2nd Vote 25-22-4

New Minority Opinion

- This is sex and love addicts anonymous. There are other programs like SA and SAA that are purely sex programs. Fear is that these 40 Qs are pushing us away from our original identity. Remember not only do we want to reach the addict who still suffers who may have some of these issues but we don't want to scare away the addicts who may read about sexual aggressive behavior, forcing people to have sex and things like that.
- Don't question the wisdom of changing or modifying the current 40 Qs but the title of these 40 Qs is 40 Qs for Self-Diagnosis and is the same title as the old document. We were told that this was not going to replace the original Core Document but in essence it does. The "Intent" of the Motion clearly states that it wants to replace the Core Document and not supplement them. This is not ready yet, it is not the time and not the correct verbiage.
- Have a Masters in Statistics and want to point out that the sample size is too small, the sample base is biased (Delaware area and 100 other email addresses) and when do factor segmentation that is subject to bias and requires a whole other analytic process before you out and run analytics on it. Not in support of this.
- Personally I identify with the new 40 Qs but my Intergroup could not find itself in this new 40 Qs and does not want to change the original 40 Qs.
- It is confusing to see the 40 Qs online as a Core Document and go into a meeting and see this new 40 Qs.
- I am a love addict and I counted 9 instances of references to sex in the first 11 Qs of the draft; and only 3 references to romantic compulsion in the first 11 Qs. Would like to get the #s more in balance with the population we serve.

Point of Clarification: Familiar with the architects of this draft and want to clear up a few things about the intent of this motion.

Facilitator asked if the member voted in the minority? **A-No.** Facilitator indicated that only those in the minority may speak at this time.

30 seconds of silence

17n05/15-05 Motion to Table by Rick S. and second by Bob G.

Q-What is the value of allowing a vote to happen on this in order for clear feedback to go to the makers of the document? **A-**This question is not a question about the voting options and is therefore not appropriate at this time.

30 seconds of silence

Vote 36-13 (49)

The count was verified as 51/52 voting members present.

Re-vote. All members must vote there are no abstentions when tabling a motion.

Vote to Table 36-15 passes.

The assembly ended with announcements and the Serenity Prayer.

Thursday July 27, 2017

After a live auction fundraising activity Wednesday night and breakfast the General Assembly began.

General Assembly - Thursday July 27, 2017 8:01 am

- Facilitator - Gabriel G.
- Assistant Facilitator - Nancy G.
- Backup Facilitator - Jean J.
- Time Keepers – Matthew N. and Glenn S.
- Spiritual Reminder – Roberto Z.
- Vote Counters – Ivo P. and Mathilde M.

The Assembly began with a moment of silence and Serenity Prayer followed by the reading of the:

- 12 Steps – P.A.
- 12 Traditions read by David F. in Polish
- 12 Concepts – Rich K.

There were **50/52 voting members present.** The quorum (42) was met.

17n09/17-01 Motion: Amend the By-Laws Article V Section 8a,b Definitions add “administrative” for F.W.S. staff, and add CCC Chair as voting member.

Committee Comments not on the ABM Agenda - none

Pros and Cons: None

30 seconds silence

1st Vote 49-0-0

Need to verify the number of voting members; 50/52 voting members present.

Revote: Vote 50-0-0 17n09/17-01 Motion passes unanimously

17n10/17-02 Motion: Approve the “Anorexia Recovery Tools” text as Conference-approved literature.

Committee Comments not on the ABM Agenda -

- CAC Chair indicated this draft is offered to support those in recovery. Since 2015 ABM it has been edited to become more Step focused and S.L.A.A. specific. Although written by anorexics and for anorexics we believe that the tools and suggestions can be relevant to anyone in recovery from sex and love addiction and a helpful resource to the Fellowship as a whole.

Pros and Cons

- Pro – San Francisco/East Bay Intergroup believes this a beautifully written piece of literature; it reads like a really good piece of recovery literature; offers hope, stresses importance of HP and overall offers a gentle and comforting voice. Sponsorship section points out each person’s path in recovery is unique and does not necessarily single out anorexics as being different or separate.
- Pro – Houston Intergroup unanimously supports this document. Need more tools and don’t see this draft as a separator since addiction, avoidance and anorexia a continuum.
- Pro – Home group supports; didn’t realize I was anorexic until 7 yrs in the program. Realized anorexia my core addiction in all my acting out and promiscuity as I could never be intimate. Chose partners who were not emotionally available and I could be anorexic with them.
- Pro – UK Intergroup approves; gave example of newcomer who came in and couldn’t identify with the characteristics but once attended anorexia meetings could. Heard member share that even porn addiction is anorexia; anorexia is really core of S.L.A.A. This draft an extra tool for recovery.
- Pro – I read/identified with this draft and immediately felt hopeful. Addresses developmental needs of organization. Anorexia is root of all sex and love addictions; don’t think we have to define ourselves by sex and love addict, anorectic or whatever, we can see them all as symptoms of a larger issue. Information is helpful and we don’t have a lot information on anorexia. It’s not perfect but it helps a lot of people.
- Con – Good until the sponsorship section where starts to separate sex and love addicts from anorexics-we all suffer from the same disease; 12 Steps section should be removed, finding we are trying too hard to put 12 Steps into all the literature.
- Con – This pamphlet describes the core underlying condition of all sex and love addiction-a lack of willingness to love and be loved; there is no difference between the symptoms and underlying conditions. There are contradictions starting with the *Anorexia* pamphlet where it states this is another form of addiction and at another point says it is a different condition. Connection is the solution; we can have all the sex but not be connected to somebody or hyper dependent but not love. As far as sponsorship goes if I can’t be your mirror on terms that don’t always reflect where you are at or feeling, its pointless to be sponsored. All relationships are uncomfortable and require give and take.
- Con – Appreciate ART and has used it with sponsees but have concerns with the sponsorship section; e.g. 1-“when sponsoring an anorexic we avoid giving unsolicited feedback...until anorexic ready”, I felt that is like walking around on eggshells; 2-“Sometimes a sponsor may want to dismiss an anorectic sponsee simply because the sponsee is unable to be as productive.” A lot of this needs to be changed.

30 seconds of silence.

1st Vote 34-12-3 17n10/17-02 Motion

Verification of number of voting members in the room: **49 voting members present**

Minority Opinion:

- Troubled by the sponsorship section. Wonderful document and needs work. As a long-term sponsor find the sponsorship section “directive”.
- Intellectually there is a problem. Addressing two groups of people; 1- anhedonia or compulsive avoidance of anything emotional or sexual and 2-active addiction and when it stops you have an underlying condition of not wanting to connect with others. I need active encouragement to say yes to life, yes to sober dating, and yes connection to my family.

- “When in doubt leave it out”, suggest calling it the 12 Tools of Anorexia and cut out the 12 Steps section; streamline the document.

30 seconds

2nd Vote 31-16-2 17n10/17-02 Motion passes but not by a 2/3rds majority.

17n11/17-03 IFD: Identify methods/resources that can improve the S.L.A.A. FWS budgeting process.

Committee Comments not on the ABM Agenda

- Board opposes any implementation because it violates Concepts 6, 8, and 9 as well as Article VI, Section 1 of the By-Laws. This is not appropriate for the Conference to consider. We recommend that it be removed from the ABM Agenda.

10 minutes allocated for discussion of this item with statements at one minute or less.

- As ARS Chair/ABM Agenda Editor I want everyone to know that every opportunity was provided to make that concern known in the Comments Section that was not done. I don't agree with stifling discussion of any Item. The BOT is charged with maintaining/operating an Operating Fund and Prudent Reserve. I don't agree with the basis of this topic but agree with the underlying concern about money and how it is handled. I encourage the BOT to turn its attention to how they structure the spending on the ABM, purposes of the ABM and to take that budgeting process seriously as there was a large drop-off last year or a loss that is concerning; we keep hearing our donations are low. I trust the BOT to move forward and present a way of handling those funds for the ABM.
- Unfortunate when there is hyperbole, exaggeration and inaccuracy in the advocacy of a position in regards to a spiritual organization. The budgeting process in my experience does not need substantial improvement. The Conference Committees have not been left without the ability to plan and undertake their activities and the current budgeting process does not prevent the Conference Committees from completely fulfilling their mission. Remember this is a spiritual organization and we don't need to advocate as if we were politicking in the real world.
- Have concern about the use of the term endowment; endowments are restrictive and have certain rules; to talk about using the fund as an endowment could be confusing and that money should be available for designated fund not endowed fund.
- In my professional capacity as a CPA to change the fiscal year-end would result in additional costs of taxes and financial statement. If we move the fiscal-year end but not move the ABM as requested the ABM couldn't vote on the budget. It is the board's fiscal responsibility and not the Conference's fiscal responsibility in that the budget is a slow process; and, needs to wait for the Conference Committees to submit their budgets and to finalize the budget. Item should be withdrawn.
- Suggest CCC review the ARS Process and make sure that Items that are submitted to the ARS do not violate the Concepts before they are placed on the ABM Agenda. I don't think that is helpful or supportive. Make sure Items meet the standards of the Steps, Traditions and Concepts would be a great idea and benchmark. Having said that would like to hear what the Conference has to say on funding and raising donations from Groups and members. Collaborating rather than hamstringing those we have chosen as trusted servants.
- A possible solution suggested was moving monies from Prudent Reserve into the Operating Budget and actually what is in the Prudent Reserve right now is a little more than 6 months operating budget. Ideally need a full year in the Prudent Reserve in case of disaster; e.g. fire or flood.
- The board was welcome to make comments; please don't assume that the Item you have before you was the original one. Significant revisions were suggested and accepted and there is a lengthy CFC reply in the Comments Sections. It is not the ARS's job to do an analysis of the Steps, Traditions and Concepts because they are subjective. We did look forward to the input by the CSTCC to but nothing received. I trust the board. The ARS worked within the Traditions and Concepts as far as how we did our work. We worked diligently with all Submitters to put their thoughts in a form that was more understandable and palatable.

30 seconds of silence

- Having been the former CFC Chair would like to remind you to look at all the comments in the Comments Section. As of this date Conference Committees have spent about 18% of their allocated budgets and that is a trifle bit of what was requested. There is a well-defined process for a Committee to do something by going to the CFC and if the CFC reserve not sufficient then a request to the board.

This item is closed for this ABM. The information gathered during discussion will be captured in the official minutes of this ABM. Space will be reserved for a motion related to this IFD in the first version of the ABM Agenda for next year's ABM.

Assembly closed after announcements:

General Assembly - Thursday July 27, 2017 2:15 pm

After Conference Committee meetings and lunch the General Assembly began.

- Facilitator – Earl D.
- Assistant Facilitator – Rich K.
- Backup Facilitator – Michael S.
- Time Keepers – Matthew N. and Joe C.
- Spiritual Reminder – Roberto Z.
- Vote Counters – Ivo P. and Mathilde M.

Assembly began with **51/52 voting members present**. The quorum (42) was met.

17n12/17-04 IFD: Change word "Lone" Group/replace organizational structure based on geographic zone, region or district.

Committee Comments not on the ABM Agenda - none

15 minutes allocated for discussion of this item with statements at one minute or less.

- Need more organization but skeptical as the culture over four decades is autonomous Groups and this trumps anything this IFD is trying to do.
- A bit of history on the term as I was there when Web Team formed by BPRC (now called BPMC) and term came out to describe a Group that is in an area without an Intergroup; not an official term at first. When a Group registers with me as the F.W.S. Webmaster I need to know if they are part of an Intergroup or not. Suggestion to call them Independent Groups or Groups but still need to know if part of an Intergroup or not because it affects what I do on the website.
- My experience coming from Canada where we have a huge area but smaller number of Groups is that we have a service structure with clear boundaries that support everyone in the Fellowship. Isolation is the addiction and connection is the opposite so the more we can set up a service structure which helps people to connect with each other the better we will be able to serve the Fellowship.
- Those from larger Intergroups (Los Angeles, GDVI, NEI, and Sacramento) okay but I am in a whole different world, struggling to get a dozen people to a meeting. Tried 4-5 false starts to get an Intergroup going. We would benefit by revisiting our service structure, maybe keeping the Intergroups and going to a General Service Structure like A.A. and try something that would give voice to the small struggling areas.
- Don't like the term "Lone" Group and don't know what you are going to call it. How to leverage geography to better align recovery communities. Change = disruption and may be putting competing philosophies to bordering Intergroups and create antagonisms; but, should we look at other service structures, why not.
- Visits Detroit MI where 2 open meetings of about 10 members each; invited to attend business meetings and asked how to grow Fellowship? Suggested start more meetings, told them about the ABM. Terminology could be changed to be more inclusive.

- In Houston have one big loop with 40 meetings but way out there have these meetings that come and go. Maybe having a region/larger district will help bring them together with those inside the loop.
- Seattle suffers because not connected to recovering communities. Consider larger solution by connecting with other Fellowship and communities to get the recovery there.
- The first Q is do we rename the “Lone” Group; I looked up in Thesaurus.com to see if there is a better more positive term for lone and got worse or more confusing; e.g. solo Group, isolated Group so Lone Group pretty good. Opportunity for mentorship between Intergroups. Maybe sponsor or support a Lone Group.
- Other Fellowships have regional Intergroups; maybe a Northern and Southern California Intergroup.
- When S.L.A.A. small this system works but outgrowing and need to respect autonomy.
- Zoom meetings in London/Ireland with faces on screen so almost like being in a room with other people. Consider using these tools.
- Don’t need to reinvent the wheel. Checked with A.A. GSO how they did it and will be sending to me.
- A physical boundary like the loop could extend its reach by including Groups in their meeting lists. In GDVI list these types of Groups even if do not support the Intergroup.

This item is closed for this ABM. The information gathered during discussion will be captured in the official minutes of this ABM. Space will be reserved for a motion related to this IFD in the first version of the ABM Agenda for next year’s ABM.

17n13/17-05 IFD: Discuss the text of the “Meditation Book”.

Committee Comments not on the ABM Agenda - none

15 minutes allocated with statements at one minute or less.

- Submitter provided a history: 1996 Conference wanted this book, past CJC Chair collected 365 topics and went out getting shares; 5 years ago with another CJC member started reading/sharing daily; so far well received.
- Wonderful, very impressed, don’t agree with all of it but like it. Some meditations talk about specifics and situations that not everyone will identify with.
- It’s cohesive, has an on-going point of view, doesn’t feel like Committee writing, and draws from a wide-base.
- Read a few that apply to me so far and plan to make it a daily reader. In daily readings from two sources I don’t identify with all of them so move on.
- So grateful for the effort and sobriety; liked the “we” statements and “I” language; felt safe reading it, inclusive and felt sober.
- Using draft each morning, very broad, can be applied to many things, but even if Conference approves it doubt that the German Intergroup will translate it as they have developed their own meditation book this year.
- Some topics a little too specific for me; e.g. 13 Stepping and getting arrested don’t apply to me or others. Tone could be a little bit more uplifting, some entries too long.
- Hoping that CLC will be able to adopt some of the processes used for this book in future CLC draft literature projects.
- Benefit from daily reader is it grounds me in the morning and helps me work the 1st Step again; benefit reading something that doesn’t necessarily in that moment apply to me is that it makes me better to hear the perspective of others, of the newcomer, and of a sponsee.
- Tired of *Just for Today* and *Answers in the Heart*, like that we have our own book and it refers back to the Basic Text.
- Like idea of having our own book. And might help a sponsee.

- There are reading meetings for this book, will pass out flyers tomorrow; the topics seemed controversial to me too at first but reading quotes from the Basic Text and discussing during meetings opened my mind about the topics.
- Enjoyed reading this book. Relate to the commonality not specifics.
- When I read those that I thought didn't apply or tough to read I learned to feel the pain.

This item is closed for this ABM. The information gathered during discussion will be captured in the official minutes of this ABM. Space will be reserved for a motion related to this IFD in the first version of the ABM Agenda for next year's ABM.

Q-Are we encouraged to take this information back to our Groups and Intergroups for people to use in meetings and provide feedback or not? **A**-Will be giving away 10 copies tonight at the Meditation Book meeting. You will be asked to read at your meetings and provide feedback or the 2nd option is to start a Meditation Book Reading meeting and provide feedback. You can also join the Meditation Reading Phone Meeting 5 pm PT Sundays and submit feedback.

Point of Clarification – Steve B. indicated that the board issued a statement earlier during the ABM and wants to make sure we are clear. We are not trying to stop draft literature from getting feedback. Our concern is that when literature is copied willy-nilly and just handed out to anyone anywhere without really having any hope of having feedback. We have found that mass distribution of literature rarely results in any feedback. Then the literature floats around for years even after Conference approval and selling in the Store. Time for discussion has expired. This item is closed for this ABM. The information gathered during discussion will be captured in the official minutes of this ABM. Space will be reserved for a motion related to this IFD in the first version of the ABM Agenda for next year's ABM.

17n14/17-06 Motion: Amend the By-Laws Article III Membership.

Friendly Amendment (A): Remove reference to addition of 12 Concepts to By-Laws as already approved by Conference at the 2016 ABM. Jason S. and submitter Stephan F. accepts.

Committee Comments not on the ABM Agenda - none

There are **51/52 voting members present**.

Pros and Cons:

Pro - Great amount of trust in these people because not always clear what the By-Laws say but learning to read and understand them.

1st Vote 50-0-1 Motion passes unanimously.

17n15/17-07 IFD: Discuss F.W.S. Publishing a 50th Anniversary Edition of the S.L.A.A. Basic Text in 2026.

Committee Comments not on the ABM Agenda

- The BOT seeks to know what the Conference thinks about the idea of updating the S.L.A.A. Basic Text to be published at the time of the 50th Anniversary.
- CDC Chair did not prepare a formal statement but sure members of the Committee would be excited to see more stories of diversity whether it is diversity of sexual addiction, racial, ethnic, gender orientation, gender identity; more stories from women, and more varieties of relationship identification whether its monogamy or polyamory. There are sober ways to do these relationships and we have examples of them in the San Francisco/Bay Area.

15 minutes allocated for discussion of this item with statements at one minute or less.

- Submitter BPMC Chair explained this Item submitted for Conference input not just a BOT idea. Maybe add a Forward.
- Forward is a good idea. Possibly some updated stories so we can reach the addict who still suffers. Concerned about some misstatements: There are several women's stories in the back; in fact, a key one is Kate's story. There is a love addiction story called Rich's story. I want to go on record that I have no interest in having a committee convene to touch the body of the writing which is Rich's treatise written with the very active help of Barbara L.

- Love the idea of creating 50th Anniversary document with some updated stories keeping sacred the main element of the book. Have the tiny embossed book with the raised white letters and hold that dearly and would love a permanent hard cover version with diverse stories.
- Oh my G-d please redo this book, print hard bound easier to carry around; change some of the wording though, I only have a 2 yr degree as horticulture major but I sometimes can't understand a word I am reading in that text especially 4th Step.
- Got a lot comments from our Fellowship about the S.L.A.A. Basic Text; lot of people don't like the writing. A.A. in its 4th edition of Big Book preserving the first 164 pages. Language hard back then as well. Basic Text could have used more editorial and does lend itself to some sprucing up and definitely reflecting the Fellowship at large.
- UK in favor of a new version and one of meetings favor more inclusivity and diversity.
- Book crying out to be changed, painful to read, helpful but archaic, 40 years of modern development and need to keep up with the times.
- Sentence structure very complicated in the Basic Text. Make it more accessible to average person; a lot of children finding pornography at 11-12 so that by time 18-19 so deep in addiction they have gone pretty far, so younger people coming and if we could make it so it is college-education reading level, first 8 chapters not sacrosanct and could redo entire book, and embrace anorexia as part of the spectrum.
- Orange County Intergroup finds it difficult to understand and not terribly inclusive especially anorexia. Save what can be saved and replace what can be replaced.
- Trend is increasingly all of our materials are going to be e-books and one thing struggle with in meetings is page numbering. Impossible in a meeting to use hard copy and e-book and find page going to.
- Have 9 years to do it well; current e-book file was photographs, we want to create a text version of the book.
- Need geographical diversity of stories.
- Sweden would want a Forward with a history of S.L.A.A. included and new stories that include dating and anorexia. Question is who is going to lead?
- Over 10 years in program and have sponsored many women. Many women cannot relate to the founder's story; it is from a man's perspective with woman posited as a victim either as someone being acted out with or acted out on. Why is that one story a lead into this entire book. Not very many meetings use that story. Difficulty of the reading-simplify it.
- If change Basic Text will be changing the direction. Important issue is who is going to do it, how are we going to review it and are we making sure we don't go in a direction that is not recovery? I heard comments already that shocked me. I would like to see a process at the next ABM.
- Amazing opportunity to take stock of this Fellowship and what our mission is and how best to accomplish it. First thing we tell newcomers is get a Basic Text and I rarely use it other than the Steps part. Sex and love addiction like a maze and if it had a book that clearly laid it out very helpful.
- If you go to the 3rd paragraph of the Preface you might find 2 of the longest sentences in the history of man back-to-back; and, that is how the book is written. It could be simplified in language. I enjoy it but I like reading obtuse stuff. The sexual revolution ended in the 70s; and, please get rid of the last story.
- Basic Text author has never met a subordinate clause he didn't love. Room for change and improvement but keep *Chapter 5 Withdrawal*; at our Steps retreat read Chapter 5 instead of Step 1.

This item is closed for this ABM. The information gathered during discussion will be captured in the official minutes of this ABM. Space will be reserved for a motion related to this IFD in the first version of the ABM Agenda for next year's ABM.

Floor Nominations for the Board – Rick B.

Steve B. proposed David F. of Poland.

Q-Are you willing to serve on the BOT? **A**-Yes.

Q-Do you meet the sobriety requirement? **A**-Of 3 years? Yes.
Need to fill out paperwork ASAP and do oral interview tonight.

Floor Nominations now closed for this ABM.

Assembly ended at 3:40pm. Return 3:55.

General Assembly - Thursday July 27, 2017 3:57pm

After a short break the General Assembly reconvened.

- Facilitator – Paul T.
- Assistant Facilitator – Phillip W.
- Backup Facilitator – Diana S.
- Time Keepers – Matthew N. and Joe C.
- Spiritual Reminder – Roberto Z.
- Vote Counters – Ivo P. and Mathilde M.

There are **49/52 voting members present**. There is a quorum (42).

17n16/17-08 IFD: Discussion as to whether the wording of the 11th Sign of Recovery should be amended to be more inclusive.

Committee Comments not on ABM Agenda – none

15 minutes allocated for discussion of this item with statements at one minute or less.

- San Francisco/East Bay Intergroup the Submitter of this Item found that when stop acting out we stop sex altogether and become anorexic, maybe a result of perfectionism around this 11th Sign of Recovery: “We learn to value sex as a by-product of sharing, commitment, trust and cooperation in a partnership.” For some of us dating more than one person at a time is the only way to engage in our sexuality whether it’s within the context of a goal like monogamy, committed monogamous relationship or not. Originally this was submitted to read, “We learned to value sexual expression as a non-addictive medium” taking out the words commitment and partnership. Some alternatives might be, “We come to value sex as an expression of sharing, trust, and cooperation in our relationship with self and others.” Or “We come to value sex as an expression of sharing, trust and cooperation in our relationships.”
- UK Intergroup thinks it deviates too far from the interpretation of recovery; it already talks to a wide enough selection; it doesn’t say you have to be married and if not here to work on commitment than why are we here. Notion that came up was, “Take what you like and leave the rest.”
- Wording of that sign particularly for unmarried/gay man; very difficult for what it does is judge any relationship that is not a committed relationship I approve, not sure that makes people anorexic but it causes shame among a lot of people because there are perfectly healthy relationships that are not committed in any other way. I approve of this.
- 1-Like having this conversation, and prefer the word “honest” relationship/partnership; 2-There is sacredness to the Core Documents, and wonder how this would actually affect that.
- Submitter continues: Three major words that Intergroup concerned with suggest judgement and possible exclusion of some recovering members: “by-product” is a clinical, unemotional word in tone and implies sex is an incidental outcome that is produced unconsciously or without much effort as a result of focusing on sharing, trust, commitment and cooperation. Some with a background of unhealthy sexual patterns find that they must carefully, consciously plan, organize and in some cases titrate sexual experiences in order to consciously move through triggers, flashbacks and somatic memories. Stating that sex is just a by-product denies that a sober and empowered members can consciously create sexual experiences.

- Partnership and commitment important words; reason I came into the program is because I was having sex outside my committed relationship. Certain forms of sex others can engage in but I cannot. I abused that privilege. Core Document well thought out and to change it would be making it permissive to other forms of behavior.
- Okay with the word “by-product”. Thought sex was such an important part of my marriage until I found out that it had dominated my thinking and almost destroyed it. There is so much more to my relationship now. Not intended to be shaming but it meets most people’s bottom lines and just like some don’t believe in God and need to adapt it. This is important enough not to change it.
- Commitment is the key for trust and in my recovery journey when there was no commitment there was no trust or recovery. No alternative for me, tremendous mistake if remove the word.
- When I hear this read at a meeting I sober up and game over. Fine just as it is.
- I love this sign of recovery. No sex outside committed relationship one of my bottom-line behaviors and works for me but for anorectic sponsee may not work.
- Something hit me in the CHRC meeting this morning; talking about commitment and it hit me we are in a committee; oh, commitment. Keep the language as is.
- Have a different generational view on this. Bottom line is only sex in a committed relationship but respect others in relationship especially if discussed it with a sponsor. Have sponsee lobbying strongly for his non-committed relationship sex. I don’t happen to buy into that yet. What concerns me is one of the principles of my recovery and changing the language would allow me to slip back into my old habits.
- Sponsor several women who are anorexic and one of their struggles is if solo sex okay. Conclusion is if we end the 11th Sign of Recovery with God then it works.
- The word committed keeps me sober. The addiction always trying to find little loopholes. Experience of polyamory and open relationship was negative in the sense there was no commitment. I believe polyamory can be a beautiful thing and the ones that work are committed to several people. Commitment doesn’t mean marriage but a strong concept that I hope we keep.
- Submitter continues: The word “partnership” can include self or HP but the standard interpretation implies agreement between two individuals. An important step for those healing is to develop a healthy sexual relationship with self. The word partnership and its implications of a two-person dynamic can deny that. The word “commitment” some want to have a committed relationship with one person others do not. The word commitment implies monogamy and marriage; it could be that it denies sober members can participate in honest and open relationships.
- Have a conservative approach to things but one of gifts of being a sponsor is having an opportunity to work with people who have different ways of looking at things. My sobriety is not your sobriety; and, yours is not mine. Maybe we can be more inclusive without compromising ourselves.

This item is closed for this ABM. The information gathered during discussion will be captured in the official minutes of this ABM. Space will be reserved for a motion related to this IFD in the first version of the ABM Agenda for next year’s ABM.

17n17/17-09 IFD: To find out the Fellowship’s interest in having an S.L.A.A. App developed. Is there interest? What kinds of features would be a good fit for S.L.A.A. (e.g. Thought of the day, meeting finder, etc?)

Committee Comments not on ABM Agenda

- BOT Chair indicates that the BOT seeks and would appreciate the Conference’s input on whether an S.L.A.A. app should be developed and what features they would like to see.
- CLC Chair mentioned that at last ABM a number of younger members wondered why handing out papers and that they would not read pamphlets. Favorable to an app.
- CDC Chair described one of the projects worked on this year was collecting shares for an app. A diverse array of long form oral shares from a range of backgrounds and ideally in different languages.

- BOC Chair/Submitter explained reason for submission this year is that last year's ABM expressed need for creation of an S.L.A.A. app and also many of the committees that we served on this past year. Looking forward to comments.
- CHIC Chair outlined the benefit that people the committee is trying to reach would be helped as well. If you are in prison don't have access but if in a rehab center or women's shelter can find comfort in this sort of thing; not have to wait for letters to be put out by use by mail.

15 minutes allocated for discussion of this item with statements at one minute or less.

- Love idea of putting the tool for recovery right in my hand especially because meeting finder on our website challenging and antiquated; would be great to find a meeting using GPS, besides speaker app with diverse stories plus have Core Documents and all the literature for a meeting at hand.
- It is about time and think need to join the world...accessible and open.
- It's time...I have 3 OA apps on phone. What I would like to see on the app: way to enter sober dates, themed speakers, spot check inventory, gratitude list, pamphlets and documents, and a calendar of meetings.
- Greater Delaware Valley Intergroup in favor of app. I am in touch with 50-60 individuals who cannot access internet so keep paper around.
- Form is function, more ways to reach addict the more flexible and versatile we can be, the more will be able to feel our message matters and it will improve the Fellowship. Get to a world-wide audience. I use my phone a lot for phone meetings that are international and it's expanded my recovery. You can look at your phone and choose to listen to someone's story instead of porn.
- Do away with 4 or 5 bad apps and replace with a good one. In 2013 the Office researched bids for an app; lowest bid was in India \$3600 to create the app and did not include the monthly costs of maintenance.
- Live 35 minutes from Silicon Valley. Would like app to have sobriety date reminder, find a meeting, meeting scheduler, daily meditation, and place for prayers, bottom line updates, no contact reminder, dating plan, bookend reminder and random stories of experience, strength and hope.
- Not an app developer but love ideas as webmaster knows there will be a lot of back-end challenges and would be helpful if app developer would take the platform we use and adapt that to the app. If not it would mean duplicate entry for every Group and Intergroup registration
- Great idea. Essential but mindful of costs and vendor, need to do homework; get a vendor/developer who is a member.
- This is a platform and need to make sure it is scalable, flexible, cost effective, function to form. Have been talking about pull technology but this is push technology in that I can respond back to give feedback/ask for more information/to communicate; not only pulling down but pushing up. This is the new platform for digital rights management, implement electronics from digital format.
- Lots of info and costs for maintenance. If want app need to go back to Groups/Intergroups and encourage contributions.
- Friend told me about a meeting finder app very useful when out of town but the app asked for all kinds of information on phone. Keep in mind not to give access when using an S.L.A.A. app.
- All for app but not to replace what currently have, do both ways.
- Great idea. There is a company/website available and can provide information that is wanted/needed and they will search and bring three product developers to choose from with price ranges, options so not as difficult as it seems.
- Be aware when use cell phone, sends GPS signal somewhere, and devices constantly aware.

This item is closed for this ABM. The information gathered during discussion will be captured in the official minutes of this ABM. Space will be reserved for a motion related to this IFD in the first version of the ABM Agenda for next year's ABM.

Assembly ended with announcements and break.

General Assembly/BOT Nominees Tradition 3 – Thursday July 27, 2017 5:02pm

After a short break the General Assembly reconvened.

- Facilitator – Anthony P.
- Assistant Facilitator – Seth S.
- Backup Facilitator – David S.
- Time Keepers – Matthew N. and Joe C.
- Spiritual Reminder – Roberto Z.

30 seconds of silence

1-2 minutes for board nominees serving this past year on the board

- Jason S. (CA) – Introduced myself yesterday but as a refresher got on the BOT last year after losing an election; that was a roller coaster ride-first up when asked, then down/humbled when lost, then up again after the appointment to the board. So why continue on the board? It's awesome making me grow and stretch out of my comfort zone; sat for election but didn't roller coaster ride but awesome times three.
- Earl D. (TX) – I was also in the same boat as Jason, up, down and up. I asked myself what did I just do? It's been a journey ever since and very hard work but pays off. If you work this program and work the Steps you will have benefits.

2-3 minutes for newest nominees:

- Nancy G. (CA) – I am an appointee to a 2-year term that will end at the end of 2018 ABM and up for confirmation. Am stimulated and enriched by this whole experience. Want to be on the BOT to express my gratitude to this program for how my life has changed. To be of service is rewarding. Had wonderful experience in service for 4 years on the CHRC; gave me a lot of security in my recovery and find that to be true on the BOT. This is a spiritual program so not just working relationships but my recovery can be part of the interactions.
- Ashly B. (TX) - Brand new on the BOT; appointed to a 3-year term and up for confirmation by the Conference. Joined BOT 2 months ago, attended one BOT call and then past Friday face to face meetings over the weekend. So much to learn and way of giving back to the program that saved my life. Different level of service for me where use part of brain don't use all the time especially as a pre-K teacher which is more a nurturing role.
- David F. (Poland) – Asked if I would consider serving on the board. Started service early on in recovery because of my sponsor; explained it is a pillar of recovery. HP is my authority and know have to serve. This is my 2nd ABM and feel grounded on the CTC, trust/like them. Done quite a bit of work in translation on the literature committee in Poland, Basic Text published. Received a lot support and encouragement in Poland and here so going to give it a go.

ABC/M Theme: Tradition Three: “The only requirement for S.L.A.A. membership is a desire to stop living out a pattern of sex and love addiction. Any two or more persons gathered together for mutual aid in recovering from sex and love addiction may call themselves an S.L.A.A. group, provided that as a group they have no other affiliation.”

2 minutes each same order: Discuss what the Tradition means to you and how you use in personal life.

- Jason S. – Taught that the Traditions just words on the wall until put them into your life. Lot of people come in and don't like the Basic Text, don't like porn addicts, don't like this or that but all that is required is a desire to stop. This helps me practice acceptance. As for the part that any two or more persons that can mean anywhere, anytime. We have impromptu meetings here. It is all inclusive.
- Earl D. – Learn kinetically and have to make lists/write things down. Tradition 3 fundamental and comes before Tradition 1 – unity and Tradition 2 – authority and then Tradition 3 identity or purpose. I have a desire to stop acting out, desire to work the program, and desire to do service. With this desire I have hope. No hope 5 years ago but very grateful to have this Fellowship. I believe program inclusive vs. exclusive; “any two people.”

- Nancy G. – Key in on desire to stop living out my patterns and mutuality. I learned the great value of living in community and living in connection, as well as finding and expressing values vs. secrets. Taught in program to be open and heard people talk about problems that I had been taught not to mention and it attracted me. Got into Step study to learn more and what are people talking about. The wisdom I heard made sense to me.
- Ashly B. – Never had a desire to stop anything until I had so much pain that then I had a desire to start this program. When walked into the rooms had so much pain but heard that there was another way to live. Lot of meetings in churches and they close on holidays and I love it when we are all like, nope, meet out in the garden with two or more people. It's great.
- David F. – I found this Tradition powerful when went to a Step program and I was sharing shameful things and thought for sure I would be thrown out because I was bad. When it was made clear by people listening that they were not judging me that was amazingly powerful for me. Use an expression of "I declare" - I want to stop leaving out a pattern of sex and love addiction and that is so powerful. I have experienced many meetings where it is just me and one other, but kept coming. Now enormous with 4 or even 5 people coming sometimes. The fact that there is two means I am out of my isolation.

Questions/Answers of Board Nominees

Q-1 What do you believe is biggest single challenge facing the BOT or Fellowship in next 1-2 years?

And Q-2 What is your specific vision/solution? 2 minutes

- David F. – Don't know the challenge because haven't served yet on the BOT but suspect fair amount of ego going on whether they like it or not –maintaining principles over personalities always. Vision not sure but progress not perfection I would gather, moving things forward in an atmosphere of love and caring.
- Ashly B. – Challenge is the financial responsibility and ways to get funds, to get money and spending money to make some money. Getting literature out, going back to Intergroups and their meetings passing baskets around to get more money to get projects going; e.g. we have so much literature rolling through, things like apps, e-books, and more that we need and cost money.
- Nancy G. – Challenged to make it just one as I see a synchronicity between member retention, service and finances. What I have learned so far is that our contributions are down and that is a financial challenge. Cultivating a service culture will help with member retention and help with the financial challenge. Vision is to retain members, reach out to the addict, offer a home, develop a stronger service culture and develop stronger giving; putting a lot of hope on the new BOT committee-BFSC.
- Earl D. – Thank you for the Qs. Moving into a "3G" era – global growth with guardianship. I believe it is growth globally and we are the guardians of these Traditions. How do we get there? Not by the board but by you all do that, it is the Fellowship, the Committees that you have; we are part of the smaller piece of this chain. We have a direction; a strategic plan where we think we need to go but an activity that you bring to us is better.
- Jason S. – Thank you for Q. I concur that the biggest challenge to the Fellowship is the finances, they are down and meetings are closing more rapidly than opening. My solution to that is primarily the literature turn around and getting it into the hands of the members as soon as possible: Sales in hard copy and in digital versions. Secondly digital rights management and available without giving it out for free.

Q-1 What is your strength (cite an experience where able to do this) of opening the envelope of who is included; what do you offer to that challenge? What gets in your way? What are your personal struggles and how do you work with those? 2 minutes

- Jason S. – Long question and paraphrase it, “How do I expand something and how do I make it that happen in my own life?” Right. It is about how do I practice inclusivity in my life, is that right? I recently started a softball team and several people who wanted to put up all the rules about the number who get to play. My natural thought process is that everybody can play. Didn’t have the rules yet from the rules committee yet; they all knew the rules already but I didn’t know. I said until I know the rules of how many can play everybody will play. There was a guy in a wheelchair and they asked what about him and I said I will find a spot for him. He is now our statistician. I work on inclusivity and want everybody to be involved. You started your monologue about international and being on the board allows us to have a better view of what is going on internationally and there is a lot going on around the world in our Fellowship as many of you learned here and already know. It’s growing and we are prepared with a platform at the board to absorb those comments and questions that come from abroad.
- Earl D. – Good Q and diversity a very important topic and foundational elements. We were talking about those privacy issues and PII (personally identifiable information); we don’t deal with PHI (personal health information) in our Fellowship from the website perspective. Growth is global, in United States big and bold but called the “hockey stick phenomenon” and global growth going to be exponential. We have platforms to understand that but do we have the platforms to scale our literature capability or translations. Looking at international participation and that brings perspective and diversity.
- Nancy G. – Worked in Los Angeles with developmental disabilities and had workshops on how “otherness” creates fear; and people with disabilities experience it. Staff had to own that and look inward and come to terms with fear we might have with otherness. I am an advocate of that cause. I have worked as a white person in a black agency in South Central Los Angeles regional center and I was hired specifically to be a minority. It was a very rich and intimidating experience. I have a vision that one day you might be on this BOT with all of your passion for diversity.
- Ashly B. – My degree is human development and family studies and I wanted to work with disabilities. Worked with autistic children and would them take into schools to give other students opportunity to help the child who was on the spectrum; could see this collaboration working in the other student. To give back in that way there is something that changes in the students and me. Globally I would love to see an ABM in Europe; sat with the UK Delegate at dinner and we were brainstorming ideas about getting more delegates.
- David F. – The natural extension is to grow globally. Expand the CTC to include outreach and growth, important focus in CTC meetings this week, doubling the number of active language groups. What’s up in other countries? Being on CDC also opened my eyes. Critical mass is obviously the United States but an ABM in Europe would be awesome.

Q What is your view of holding multiple service positions on the BOT and outside of BOT? E.g. I became CCC Chair and was also Intergroup Chair and it was suggested to step down from the later; turned out to be a good suggestion at the time. 1 minute

- David F. – Very aware of that and will be looking at positions to give up. Belong to another program that looks at time management too.
- Ashly B. – Home group I am on fundraising committee and not going to do any more than that. On BPMC for 2 years at 1hr/month but might change with BOT work.
- Nancy G. – My sponsor volunteered to be my service sponsor as well as 12 Step sponsor. Very involved with my Intergroup and this is an unknown for me. I am seen as a link for my Intergroup to the ABM and they love my reports. My time will increase on the board I know.

- Earl D. – Serve on multiple board committees, partner noticing, but I am succession planning with local services positions. I am gainfully self-unemployed which gives me a lot more freedom than most people. To answer the question though I have to prioritize.
- Jason S. – There were 5 of us when I first came on the board then there were 7 and now 9 so that is going to help. I am in other fellowship and I look closely at the time requirements of each position; in service at my home group S.L.A.A. as secretary and in other fellowship treasurer- count money twice a month. Keep a calendar, show up and you show up for me.

Q – What is your relationship with your HP and how does this help you?

- Jason S. – Have partnership with HP, walk hand in hand with all decision making.
- Earl D. – Agree it is a partnership and certainly directional with HP. Took 18 months to do Steps 1,2,3 and I had to fire my concept of God and rehire something new. That struggle helped me connect with my HP like I had never connected before.
- Nancy G. – Love in book description of partnership with HP. If lose connection with HP then I have lost connection with me. HP speaks to me through other people.
- Ashly B. – HP felt/heard when I am still and quiet. HP getting more fun. I have a tendency to think everything has to be done perfectly but it's okay to ease up.
- David F. – Generally everyday start/end day with prayer as well as throughout the day, sacred moment to pray because I deliberately move away from mental activity of the world. It's about trusting my HP and relaxing to allow it to happen; not create fears.

Announcements by BDC Chair, Rick B., elections tomorrow morning; must be here and seated by 8am to be able to vote. One voting member has to leave early tomorrow morning and will be able to fill out an absentee ballot. You will not be able to vote if you overslept. Showed ballot with top and bottom halves for electing BOT and confirming BOT appointees. Will have a few volunteers to help with counting, will leave the room once ballots filled out, go to another room, will count come back to the room and announce trustees. Copies of David F.'s interviews will be in the hospitality suite between 8-10pm tonight. NEI Chair indicated speaker meeting 7-8pm tonight in this room with 3 speakers. Session ended at 6pm.

Friday July 28, 2017

After an evening of guest speakers organized by NEI and breakfast the General Assembly began.

General Assembly – BOT Elections Friday July 29, 2017 8:00 am Sharp

- Facilitator – Phillip W.
- Assistant Facilitator – Stephen F.
- Backup Facilitator – Gabriel G.

The General Assembly opened with the Serenity Prayer followed by the reading of the:

- 12 Steps read by Roberto Z. in Italian
- 12 Traditions – Sarah E.
- 12 Recommended Guidelines for Dealing with Media – Rita H.
- 12 Concepts – Michael K.

The assembly began with a count of **50/52 voting members present**. The quorum (42) was met.

The Board Nominating Committee chair, Rick B., requested the two volunteer ballot counters to verify that there are 50 ballots before distribution:

- Lindsay H.
- Jim B.

It was explained that 3 trustees rotating off the board, Jason S., Earl D., and himself-Rick B. So there will be 3 seats open for this year for a 3-year term. Running for those 3 seats are Jason S., Earl D. and David F. David F.'s interviews were handed out this morning and available at the Hospitality Suite last night from 8-10pm. All the rest of the information on the nominees for the board is in the ABM Binders. Additional sheets for board nominees: Nancy, G., Jason S. and Earl D., were handed out yesterday afternoon.

The voting process was explained. The ballot has two sections to it: The top part is to elect trustees to open positions. A trustee is elected when they have 50% or more of the votes. If all are voted for but two are below 49% then only one trustee is elected and two open seats remain. The bottom part of this ballot is for trustees that were appointed by the board during the year and need to be confirmed by the Conference. You are the voice of the Fellowship so if you think they should not be confirmed then their term comes to an end at some point today.

There are only 3 members running for the open positions so there is no competition. You need to vote for none of them, one, two or three trustees. You cannot vote for 4 because there are not 4 running; so, no need to invalidate your ballot.

As for the confirmation of trustees you can vote for one, two or none. There are no extras so do not have to worry about either, and no ballots to be invalidated as a result.

There are going to be 2 people who be counting as I open each ballot; there is going to be a 1st year Delegate selected to be the observer to be sure we do not sit there and say, "This is the person I want to win." Once the 50 ballots are counted, he will rip up any extras so only the 50 ballots handed out to the 50 voting members in the room. Then vote counters, 1st year Delegate and I, Rick B., will leave the room to tabulate the results. When done will return to the room and wait for the Facilitator to recognize us and announce the results: Will only tell you the names of the individuals elected and people confirmed. No numbers are given; if candidate or nominee wishes to know the specific number they can contact the F.W.S. Office Executive Director at another time.

There were 52 ballots counted; two were ripped up.

Any questions about the voting process? None.

- Ballot Counter – Lindsay H.
- Ballot Counter – Jim B.
- 1st year delegate as an observer – Joe C.
- Tabulator of the ballots – Rick K.

It was further explained that all ballots after counting are put in a yellow envelope and given to the Executive Director who puts the envelope in a safe at the F.W.S. Office in San Antonio. Two ballots are destroyed now as there are only 50 voting members present in the room. Ballots were distributed and picked up; 50 ballots counted before leaving the room to tabulate the vote.

The Facilitator requested the following volunteers:

- Time keeper – Suzanna K.
- Time keeper – Marc S.
- Vote Counter – Seth S.
- Vote Counter – Sarah E.
- Spiritual Reminder – Roberto Z.

ARS Process Review Presentation Friday - July 28, 2017 8:25 - 8:40 am.

Anthony P, ARS Chair and ABM Agenda Editor, began the review of how Items for the ABM Agenda are processed; by asking the question, “Ever come up with an amazing idea?” He replied that the UK Intergroup had three such good ideas that were submitted to the ARS; see page 21 for the process and page 25 of the [CSM 2017](#) for the flow chart.

All ABC/M information and forms are sent out six months in advance of the ABC/M via the **Special Issue of the F.W.S. Newsletter** and posted on the F.W.S. website. The forms for submitting IFDs or Motions must be filled out or they cannot accept for review and inclusion on the ABM Agenda. Sometimes in life we have to say no after the “Preliminary Review” and there are 6 reasons provided on pages 21-22 of the [CSM 2017](#).

The ARS members are there to be of service to the Conference and open to anyone, individual member/Group/Intergroup or Conference/Board Committee wishing to submit an Item on the ABM Agenda.

Results of the BOT Elections - Friday July 28, 2017 8:40 am

Rick B., chair of the Board Nominating Committee, announced the results of the BOT elections:

- Earl D., Jason S., and David F. have been elected to a 3-year term on the board.
- Ashly B. and Nancy G. have been confirmed as board members (appointed by the Board this past year).

Congratulations to all our new board members.

(continuation) ABM Agenda Items

There are still 2 IFDs and 2 Motions to discuss and will do that now.

17n18/17-10 Motion: Make the S.L.A.A. Basic Text available as an audiobook in electronic format on a popular and accessible platform.

Committee Comments not on the ABM Agenda

- BOT Chair – while the BOT is supportive of the concept we don’t know the costs; e.g. we believe a better professional reader would be appropriate since the CDs not of the highest quality. The BOT would like to know the costs before a commitment is made to prioritize such a project.
- CPIC – Stephen F. The CPIC supports the use of all methods that can reach out to the addict who still suffers which can help them in their recovery while maintaining all of our valuable copyrights.

Pros and Cons

- Pro – UK Intergroup submitted this motion because the shipping costs and costs of the CDs high; need it more available keeping it in line with Tradition 5; personally dyslexic and find book difficult to read; multitasker and likes to listen while doing something
- Con – San Antonio Intergroup not in favor at this time, concerned about quality and ability to split into different tracks. Kindle reads itself so if going towards ebook this is a possibility.

Q – Wasn’t there an mp3 of the [Basic Text](#)?

A – Steve B., BOT member/Yes. Not here for Con but to give a little background/history. As you all know we do have the English book available now through both iBook and Kindle. Nice thing about being on the board is that you can make mistakes and admit that you made them. The mistake that we made was to sell the book through the website in audio form. We really weren’t selling that many because it is expensive. We thought maybe we don’t need to go crazy with digital rights management, so put it up for sale as an mp3 on our Store as a download. Within a month there were hundreds of copies of it on U-Tube. What happens is that you can put the word sex on your U-Tube channel and people will click on it and the more clicks you get advertising money with your U-Tube channel. I don’t think we should prioritize this as the digital project for the year. I

think we want to have the board have the ability to look at all possibilities and I promise you by next year there will be more digitalized media; we just aren't sure what yet so I think we should leave the board with their discretion

There are **50/50 voting members present**. A quorum (42) was met.

The voting process was explained and time given for questions regarding the voting process only followed by 30 seconds of silence.

1st Vote 5-26-18 (49 voters)

Confirmation of voters in the room: **50 at this time.**

Revote 5-25-19 (49 voters)

Confirmation of voters in the room: **50; can we do a roll call vote?**

We apparently have 49 voters in the room.

Let the 1st Vote stand.

Minority opinion

- Voted in favor in concert with that the BOT will deal with it and it will happen somehow.
- In additions studies, ASL, and support to deaf community and moving forward with audio format is beneficial.
- Tried to donate S.L.A.A. DVDs to 21yr olds and laughed at her; no one uses under 25yrs of age; do as quickly as possible but also as easily as possible protecting our interests as well.

Point of Order: The vote that we are taking today is to post the audiobook in its current form and not voting on researching/improving its current form, correct? **A-**The motion is not clear about that.

Please read the Motion again. "Make the S.L.A.A. Basic Text available as an audiobook in electronic format on a popular and accessible platform."

Minority opinion has been heard and we will move to the 2nd Vote.

30 seconds

Count now 50/52 voting members present. The quorum (42) is met.

2nd Vote 13-19-18 17n18/17-10 Motion does not pass

Q-Is there any process since there are so many abstentions that we could have a minority again because I have a few things I would like to say?

A-It has already been removed from the ABM Agenda.

Q-Does a group conscience take it off the agenda for good?

A-A group conscience would invalidate the vote and remove it from the agenda for good, yes?

Call for Challenge to Group Conscience

30 seconds

Question on voting process: If the group conscience is found not to have been represented here would it not just remove it from the agenda which is already the case? If it is or is not the group conscience I don't see how it will affect the vote in any way.

30 seconds

30 seconds

30 seconds

Upon review of the process, "If the Facilitator declares a Motion to be APPROVED any member of the Conference may immediately verbally offer a **Challenge to the Group Conscience.**" Since this Motion did not pass there is no Challenge to the Group Conscience.

17n19/17-11 IFD: Discuss integrating anorexia stories and concepts into existing and future literature projects.

Committee Comments not on the ABM Agenda

- CAC – Sarah C., Vice-Chair There are currently 4 items published/printed/available from F.W.S. Store: Anorexia 123 booklet, Anorexia pamphlet and 2 Journal Focus booklets on Anorexia. The CAC wants to know the level of interest on integrating anorexic recovery into the proposed 50th Anniversary edition of the Basic Text and adding aspects of anorexia to future literature. The CAC is not interested in changing literature already published except the possibility of the 50th Anniversary update of the Basic Text.
- CLC – Tim P., Chair. One of the difficulties of the CLC with draft literature received is trying to balance them against the Steps, Traditions and Basic Text. As people read through some of the anorexia materials it has been a struggle for the CLC to move materials through. Ask for more integration of materials with anorexia.
- CDC – Diana S., Chair, definitely need to represent all the different voices in this Fellowship many of which are anorexic.

10 minutes allocated for discussion of this item with statements of one minute or less.

- IFD does not make it clear to my mind as to whether or not saying yes change the Basic Text the way it was written. What would go a long way in helping is to rectify the inconsistencies in the Anorexia pamphlet where stating that it is an addiction and stating that it is a separate addiction or that it is not an addiction at all. That has to be addressed to root it in sex and love addiction. Are you anorexic when using porn but not having sex other human beings?
- After sober in S.L.A.A. 5 years first time heard the word, anorexic; had no idea what was wrong with me. Then found out through a therapist that I was anorexic. This needs to be in the literature somehow.
- Still new to how things worked, but still surprised how literature is generated. Respect idea that it comes from people's experience, strength and hope. But a lot of resources out there that could support our Fellowship. I am aware of trauma studies and that addiction stems from trauma; response to trauma is fight, flight, freeze or fawn. I see anorexia as basically an inability to receive healthy nurturing which is true for all addicts. Freeze is one behavior that anorexics do; we don't act.
- Only requirement for membership in this program is a desire to stop living out a pattern of sex and love addiction. I believe it includes out a pattern of anorexia. It is actually underneath acting out, and an inability to experience love with anorexia. I would like to see anorexia stories in Basic Text.
- I was over 60-yrs old when came into program, living with a memory of an incestuous relationship which continued until 40yrs old. I tried to announce I was anorexic but I was more than 300lbs and the term confused me so much that Identified as an avoidant. Still very confused and still feel crazy; encourage us to move in a consistent manner and need to blend it together.
- I worked on Anorexia 123 booklet and have no issue integrating anorexia into the literature but suggest not to dictate it in advance what should be in the literature. We don't know what the next piece of literature will look like and not appropriate.
- Anorexia found a home here in S.L.A.A., avoidance of sexual, emotional and social nurturing. We had a monopoly on it but there is another Fellowship dealing with sexual anorexia and another formed and dealing with it. If we are concerned about anorexia in our literature we need to claim it and reach the addict who still suffers.
- One of the writers of the IFD, the intent was to get a feel for what the Fellowship wants so want to know where Conference wants to go, there is no agenda with the IFD.
- Never thought I was anorexic as I was a very social person with a very social life; but after 7 years in program I hadn't been in a relationship. Then I was in a relationship for 4 months and it freaked me out so much that when it ended I didn't get in another one. I am dating now and I need more resources to figure out what my anorexia looks like.

- Appreciate this IFD, but it does presuppose what will be in future literature items, and I think elements will be incorporated as we discuss and move forward.

This item is closed for this ABM. The information gathered during discussion will be captured in the official minutes of this ABM. Space will be reserved for a motion related to this IFD in the first version of the ABM Agenda for next year's ABM.

17n20/17-12 Motion: The Annual Business Meeting (ABM) shall be conducted as a "CLOSED" meeting.

Committee Comments not on the ABM Agenda – none

Q-Does the ABM refer to this exact meeting or the hotel included?

A-The ABM is this meeting.

Q-So closing this meeting not the hotel portion.

A-It would be this meeting and I think the meals are considered part of this meeting because business is conducted at the meals. And, Conference Committee meetings would be part of being closed. In the attachment to this motion it says the Annual Business Meeting is the working portion of the ABC.

Q-So things like the meeting last night put on by the NEI would be open.

A-That is part of the Conference not the Meeting.

Pros and Cons:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pro – Find it confusing seeing people at meals that I don't know. I would feel safer knowing only members are allowed. • Pro – There are serious anonymity and security concerns. People not familiar with program or with us may not be familiar with anonymity and not to repeat what heard/see here. Close it to those that understand risks/security issues. • Pro – In the context of the business meeting we are all in program and here to decide business and if someone comes in not knowing the process could confuse the process. If are allowed to come in no allowed to ask questions as it could confuse the process. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Con – For me this is a shame based disease, if we close meeting to outside people it keeps shame in. If people came in and saw us working together that takes away some of the shame. • Con – Don't need to close meeting but have some constraints; e.g. called to see if wife could come and told meals not included and that clarified it for me; most people don't want to come here and pay just to see who we are. • Con – Safety is paramount. I understand intent but Theme of Conference is Tradition 3 which is about inclusivity, addiction doesn't discriminate. It is a "we" program and safeguards should rule as well as common sense. This is an unnecessary motion. |
|---|--|

30 seconds of silence

1st Vote 30-17-3

Minority opinion

- People that would come into this room would be pained to pay. Not going to have strangers walking off the street; they would have to buy a one-day pass or come as an observer; they certainly wouldn't be a delegate. Don't see this as an issue but opportunity for people to come and see what we do.
- Not concerned about the business that we are doing as we are doing really great business. Not like a closed meeting where talking about our personal sex and love issues. I am proud of business we are doing and looking forward to invite more people out of the country visiting.
- In the 90s had observers from SAA and other "S" Fellowships who were not members. If we close the meeting we close ourselves off.

Point of Clarification/Question: Do we invite non-members to serve on the Board? **A-Yes**

Q-Are they allowed to participate in this meeting? **A**-Yes, they would be a voting member of the Conference.

Q-Is the CCC capable without any motion developing guidelines in conjunction with the BOT on how to run the ABM for outside members? **A**-That is not a question related to the motion. **Q**-But that possibility exists?

- Encourage us to be more open/welcoming for partners who come in and realize they are part of our Fellowship. I would never pick a healthy sane person but another addict as a partner.
- Don't know what the problem is that we are trying to solve, dealing with outlier or exception and what might happen. The hallways here have non-members, they can very well video us. Don't think we accomplish much by closing.
- By grace of God comfortable in my skin and have done terrible stuff but can live with it. Shame will keep you in the game, doing business lowers shame.
- Lot of open meetings in Los Angeles and not experienced issues with non-members; and, as far as I understand Intergroup is also open too. If I was to be nefarious I would lie to get in.

Friendly Amendment – “ABM open to observers but they can only listen.” by Susan G.

Another amendment proposed – only one amendment at a time.

30 seconds

The submitter did not accept amendment.

Do you wish to proceed with amendment? No.

Only one amendment per motion permitted.

30 seconds

2nd Vote 16-30-4 for 17n20/17-12 Minority has changed.

New Minority Opinion

- Biggest concern is safety not anonymity; need to feel safe to share and that is done in a closed meeting. There was an ABM when a non-member attended and was disruptive.
- Except office staff, BOT can choose to have non-member. I have a hard time speaking in this type of setting so if non-S.L.A.A. members present I would not speak.
- Someone without experience in program presents problem of safety. If people here and not understand this poses a problem. Heavy issues discussed here and so should be closed.
- I am torn between an open ABM and need to be rules for them; e.g. not go to mic.
- I am confused and also torn, personally I am open but I am hearing others concerned about non-members. Also confused as to closed meetings like this and openness in the hotel.
- Reminder that Tradition 12 talks about anonymity. I do believe in anonymity and in other programs – won't even take photos there.
- Last year people from Ireland came and you can't go to a meeting off a calendar but have to go meet someone and be vetted before attending a meeting there. Anonymity crucial for them because of the scandal that the press creates. Having an open meeting how do we control that? I just referenced my personal story and voicing my opinion about anorexia and others have done so; probably don't want shared especially if not at home, comfort crucial to me. I am an addict I need that.

Q-It is my understanding that at any time a Motion to Table can be made?

A-Correct, but this is the discussion.

Okay after the minority opinion.

Point of Clarification – I am the submitter of this Motion. ABC refers to the once a year event where members conduct the ABM (see [CSM 2017](#)). The ABC may include other activities such as recovery meetings, a fund-raising auction and entertainment. The Annual Business Meeting, the ABM, refers to the full assembly meeting at the ABC. This is the working portion of the ABC where members participate in discussion of Items, F.W.S. business and ideas that will affect the Fellowship as a whole. The By-Laws require an ABM to at least elect new trustees.

- I will add one new thing. I am for clarity and I believe that all members of “S” groups such as SA, SRA, SAA meet the requirement to stop acting out on their sex addiction and they would be welcome here.

Motion to Table and come back redrafted by Steve B and seconded by Seth S.

30 seconds.

Any questions on the voting options only?

30 seconds

Q-The person who asked for a motion to table mentioned improving the motion?

A-The person requesting the motion to table withdraws comment to be redrafted.

30 seconds

Vote to Table 30-20 passes.

Assembly adjourned at 10:05am – 37 minutes late and 20 minutes into the Conference Committee Sessions.

Final General Assembly – Friday July 28, 2017 2:20 pm

- Facilitator – Phillip W. (outgoing CCC chair filling in for new CCC chair – Rita H. who is Record keeper)
- Assistant Facilitator – Bob G., BOT chair for 2017-18
- Backup Facilitator – Christiane S., CFC chair for 2017-18

The BOT chair presented Rick B. with an engraved crystal award for service and thanked him for all the hard work done over the last 5 years on the BOT.

Announcement that all papers/flyers must be removed from the room and shredded to respect anonymity and preserve confidentiality of Conference business.

17n21/17-13 IFD: Discuss publishing other S.L.A.A. literature items besides the basic text, in audio format.

Committee Comments not on the ABM Agenda

- CJC - points out that there are mp3s of the Journal available on the website.
- CPIC – supports the use of all methods that can reach the addict that still suffers and that can help them in their recovery while maintaining all of our valuable copyrights.

10 minutes allocated for discussion of this item with statements at one minute or less.

- Suggests *Renewal of Sobriety* and *Setting Bottom lines* pamphlets with questions be included in an audio pamphlet. And should audio booklets be sold separately or in one or more groups; easier to offer discounts on multiple items purchased at one time and as a way to encourage a better order.
- Great idea for a lot of reasons, not the least of which are financially; once secure copyrights. Really useful for the Fellowship and especially for those with high shipping costs.
- Have to do eventually, audio and e-versions are the future, sooner we start the process the better.
- Some things to consider is the CJC had a Journal product; read 10 mp3 Journal issues all in one audio book, didn't know how to bookmark and do chapters so continuous; will need to pay a professional plus space issues – swap out 10 regularly.
- I do a lot of audio book recovery while at work. If I could have a bundle of pamphlets so I can listen to one after the other that is something I would be more likely to listen to. Work sheets in an accompanying document and loosely described rather than column one.

This item is closed for this ABM. The information gathered during discussion will be captured in the official minutes of this ABM. Space will be reserved for a motion related to this IFD in the first version of the ABM Agenda for next year's ABM.

We have officially completed the ABM Agenda for 2017.

The BOT Chair, Bob G., made the following announcements:

1. Officers

- President – Bob G.
- Treasurer – Rich K.
- Secretary – Steve B.

2. BOT Committee Chairs

- BFC – Rich K.
- BFSC – Earl D.
- BOC – Susan G.
- BDC – Jason S.
- BPMC – Ashly B.
- BHRPC – Nancy G.

Invitation to members who are interested in serving as non-board members on board committees are encouraged to step up.

- 3. BOT Liaisons to Conference Committees** will be chosen after this meeting and provided over the weekend to the CCC chair and F.W.S. Webmaster.

Conference Committee Reports:

1. **CAC** – Jim B., presented report as Chair, P.A. K., had to leave for the airport. Looking to revise the sponsorship section of the Anorexia Recovery Tools approved at this ABM and to be reviewed by the BOT. Also working on Anorexia 4567. Meets 4th Sun 11 am PT.
2. **CBC** – Stephen F., Chair presented report. Continuing to review and update By-Laws with regards to observers and volunteers; plus look at the “term” language of the BOT.
3. **CCC** – Rita H., Chair presented report – Vice-Chair – Jay G., ARS Chair/ABM Agenda Editor – Phillip W., no budget requirement and projects are the CSM Revision Work Group 2018, ARS and facilitating ABC/M 2018. Meets the 1st Sunday of the month 12:30 pm ET for 90 min.
4. **CDC** – Dianna S. new Chair (was acting Chair) presented report. Jean J. Vice-Chair. Projects include: Cultural Competency Training for the Board and F.W.S. Staff; Review of the diversity statement as a motion for next year’s agenda; Catalog of Diverse Meeting Formats; Safety and Inclusivity Language for future ABMs; and collection of diverse shares to be included in a Diversity Journal issue. Meet 1st Sunday of the month 9 am PT for 1-hr.
5. **CFC** – Christiane F., Chair reported has new members and great ideas and projects to raise funds. How to use Gratitude month May and Nov. Increased communication to Intergroups. Meets 1st Sunday 11 am ET.
6. **CHRC** – Roberto Z. not the Chair, Amalia E. is the Chair. Lively committee produced a pamphlet after 3 yrs that was on the ABM Agenda and passed. Lot of new ideas working on stories and dating plan as topics. Meets 1st Sunday 11 am PT.
7. **CHIC** – Matthew N., Chair and Diana S., Vice-Chair. Few projects that include speaker panel program to go into prisons and Simple English/Plain Language draft of Chapter Four (12 Steps). 1st Sat but likely to change to 1st or 2nd Sun.
8. **CICC** – Beth S., Co-Chair, presented report. Seth S., new chair. Projects include: Communications in both directions between Groups and Intergroups and F.W.S.; improving the way that we present Group and Intergroup information to the public. Meets 3rd Sun of the month 2 pm ET.
9. **CJC** – Lisa C., Chair, no Vice-Chair. Looking for 2 years now for a chair of the CJC. Produce Journal and e-Journal every two months. Projects included Sober Dating booklet as e-Journal and Meditation book meeting held here this year. Working on Healthy Relationships focus booklet-have a leader and a Spiritually Focus booklet Steps 2, 3, and 11.
10. **CLC** – No Report

11. **CMRC** – Kara B. met for 2 sessions here; working on one sheet-tips for supporting member retention and how to have healthy strong meetings that keep members coming back. There are 9-10 ideas.
12. **CPIC** – Stephen F. presented report. David B., Chair, and Jay G., Vice-Chair. Project to re-examine Outreach document posted on F.W.S. website. Board had approved and was to be reviewed every two years. Looking at IFF, InterFellowship Forum website, Outreach, Internet Technical Subcommittee (ITS) formed to help Groups/Intergroups use websites, devices, mobile phones with F.W.S. Webmaster. Meets 3rd Sunday of the month 3 pm ET.
13. **CSC** – Joseph R., newly elected Co-Chair, with Co-Chair Rob S. and 5 members; recording secretary, Lindsay H. and 2 members Anne K. and Ron G. Focused on simplifying and organizing our committee projects. Upcoming ideas reach out to Intergroups and Groups about workshops and services. Suggesting and encouraging language such as thank you for services. Now have copies of the UK structure/outlines to use for how to get more information out there on service. Start work on a traditional service and service sponsorship pamphlet and working with CSPC. Meets 1st Thurs of the month 8 pm.
14. **CSPC** – Glen F. presented report and encouraged everyone to take flyers on table along the wall. 1st call on Aug 28th 8 pm ET.
15. **CSTCC** – Jim B., Vice-Chair, presented report. Dave G., Chair, and project to produce a booklet on the 12 Concepts for next year's ABM Agenda. Also ongoing questions from the fellowship, very exciting and addressing those as well. Meets 4th Sunday of the month 4 pm ET.
16. **CTIOC** – Carole M., new Chair, presented report; Susan D., Vice-Chair. Receiving support from non-English speaking countries representing languages specifically: French, Polish, Dutch, Swedish, German, Spanish and Korean. Interest has also been shown by S.L.A.A. members from Asian countries like Hong Kong, China, and Singapore. Continue to support international translation projects. And, keeping in mind data provided during this ABM on individuals accessing the F.W.S. website that included the top 10 countries Turkey, India and Indonesia. Finally we as a committee have decided to change our name from Conference Translation Committee to Conference Translation and International Outreach Committee as noted at the 2016 ABM.

Move to voice vote on the Confirmation of the 16 Conference Committees

All those in favor of approving the Conference Committees say "aye"; all opposed say "nay" 0 and abstentions 0.

Motion passes

Announcement that the Conference Chairs Meeting will meet in here at 3:45 pm.

The BOT chair announced that due to financial concerns the 2018 ABC/M will be in San Antonio, Texas for a one-year commitment. Hotel and date to be determined.

Appreciation to F.W.S. Office and Staff.

Motion to close the 2017 ABC/M by Steve B. and Rich K.

We will do a voice vote. All those in favor say "aye", all opposed none.

The ABC/M is now closed.