

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



2018 Annual Business Conference/Meeting (ABC/M) Minutes

July 31 - August 3, 2018

**Hilton San Antonio Airport
San Antonio, Texas**

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2018 Annual Business Conference/Meeting Minutes
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Conference Theme: The 4th Tradition -Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or S.L.A.A. as a whole.

Abbreviations you need to know (see Appendix A of the **CSM 2018**):

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 31, 2018

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

Tuesday July 31, 2018 - 1:00 pm First General Assembly

- Facilitator – Rita H. – CCC Chair
- Assistant Facilitator – Bob G. – BOT Chair
- Backup Facilitator – Marc. S.– CFC Chair
- Record Keeper for this ABM – Sara C.K. (not present)
- Timekeeper – none

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 – John S.
- 12 Traditions – Mona E.
- 12 Concepts – Chris M.

Introductions and Welcome

- CCC Chair - Rita H. introduced the CCC members present: Philip W., Gabriel G., Jay G., and Joe C. The CCC facilitates the ABM.
- BOT Chair – Bob G. introduced the Board members present: Earl D., Ashly B., Rich K., Ned J., Susan G. and Nancy G.
- BOT Chair also introduced the Executive Director for F.W.S. – Pam Martin and the F.W.S. Webmaster – Beth S., F.W.S. Office Staff- Christina Castillo and Hector Fuentes and the Local Planning Committee Chair – Dan G. not present during this assembly.
- Introduction of all individuals present (52)
- Four (4) Countries are represented: USA, UK, Canada, and the Netherlands; as well as a Phone Group.

The BOT Chair reviewed the content of the Supplemental Packet.

The CCC Chair guided participants to the 2018 ABM Binder, the schedule for the General Assemblies and the Conference Committee sessions as well as the rules and business meeting process. The final ABM Agenda will be distributed tomorrow morning and you have until 7pm tonight to submit an IFD or a Motion.

The CCC Chair explained the ABM General Rules.

The BOT Chair read the Safety Protocol approved by the Board.

The F.W.S. Executive Director gave details regarding general housekeeping guidelines, meals, bathrooms, the Store hours, auction items, flyers on the back table, hospitality suite, and the location of Conference Committee meetings. The Executive Director is 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 when you return to the room.

An announcement for a Field Trip to the F.W.S. Office and San Antonio landmarks tonight, sign up in the Hospitality Suite if you would like to go and/or if you are able to volunteer to carpool individuals.

The session ended with an 11 minute break.

Tuesday July 31, 2018 - 2:15 pm

Getting to Know the BOT/F.W.S.

- Facilitator - Seth S.
- Assistant Facilitator - Lisa C.
- Backup Facilitator - Steve L.

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

Bob G. – I am from a little town called Brookfield, Mass. It is my 5th year on the Board which I am fortunate enough to Chair. It is an interesting experience in collaborative and cooperative work.

Rich K. – I am from Worcester, Mass. which is about 25 minutes from Brookfield, Mass. This is my 3rd ABM and I have been serving on the BOT for 2 ½ years now. I am the BFC Chair and Treasurer for the Fellowship and also the BDC Chair which responsibilities include running the Conference elections and finding members for any open positions.

Ashly B. – I am from Houston, Texas and this is my first year serving on the BOT. I am the Chair of the BPMC and being on the Board has helped me grow in so many ways and I am looking forward to growing even more.

Ned J. – I am a recovering sex and love addict, sober by the grace of God, this Fellowship and the 12 Steps. I first joined S.L.A.A. in 1990 and got a year's worth of sobriety, fell in love and decided to make my husband my higher power. It took me 17 years to get back to S.L.A.A. and finally in September 2010 I reached my bottom. I came back to the Fellowship and have enjoyed the grace of sobriety ever since.

Earl D. – Live in Cypress, suburb of Houston. I was appointed one year and then elected last year. This is the 2nd year that I am filling a 3-year term, grateful to be a part of this Conference. Literally this has been family for a couple of years now. I am Chair of the BFSC and actively participate on the BOC, CTS and a few other things.

Susan G. – I am on the BOT and I have been on the Board for 6 years. That is the maximum I can serve in this particular case. Actually, I was inducted into service from the Conference Sponsorship Committee. My home group is S.L.A.A. Online and I got sober there in 2006. This program has saved my life. I am currently in my "8th marriage" and yes, I do qualify for this program. I am Chair of the BOC which handles media requests and more.

Nancy G. – I am a sex and love addict, love avoidant. I am a member of your Board. I was appointed to fill a position that was vacated. It has been a powerful experience and a huge learning curve. It is really an experience of grace keeping company with people who do tremendous service. Everybody has great gifts to give on this Board and it has been an honor to be a part of it. I am from the North County of San Diego, CA which is a nice area.

Questions to the BOT – Open floor for whoever has a question about the BOT

1. Is there any kind of plan to promote/encourage more diversity within the Fellowship?

- Rich K. - We have a limited group to work; the Intergroups are the ones that choose their Intergroup Representatives/Delegates. There is information online that shows how you can join the Board. We have worked hard to try to be diverse as possible on the Board in terms of gender, orientation and location. Last year we did elect an international Board member and he resigned. We cannot control these things. The Board has done its best to fill open positions.

- Ned J. - I think it is a great question. I am the Liaison to the Conference Diversity Committee. I believe that S.L.A.A. needs to have as large an umbrella and as large a tent as possible. It is not just cultural; for example, I was shocked to hear that S.L.A.A. has not published a pamphlet on pornography so I do not feel we are doing our job in reaching out to the community further without publishing a pamphlet on pornography. Your point is well taken. If you know anybody who meets the three (3) year sobriety requirement to serve please encourage them to apply, we certainly encourage people to apply.

2. How many meetings does the BOT do in a month?

- Bob G. - On odd number months we have a three (3) hour meeting and on even number months we do a two (2) hour meeting. Each of us attends Conference Committees as a Liaison and those calls tend to be an hour. Then each BOT member belongs to a Board Committee which there is 6 right now. Most of the Board Committee meetings are about an hour to an hour and a half long.

3. How many monthly hours of service do you do a month?

- Bob G. - As the BOT Chair I do about 20-25 hours a month. I am also the Office Supervisor which means I spend time at the F.W.S. Office as well so my hours are higher.
- Rich K. - As Treasurer I am probably putting in close to 20-25 hours reviewing financial reports before the BFC, working with the bookkeepers and making sure everything is flowing right. I am also chair of 2 Board Committees.
- Ashly B. - I probably do 6 hours just doing meeting calls and put in a couple of more hours so I would say about 10 hours in total because I work on reports for the Board, doing research and reading.
- Ned J. - So, it is the 3 hours BOT meeting, the 1 hour Board Committee, 2 Conference Committee meetings so that is 6 hours. I print out all the materials so I can read beforehand to be prepared for the meetings and that's about 4-5 hours. Sometimes I like to edit a document so I would say 12-15 hours.
- Earl D. - In working with the BOC it is right at 20 hours +.
- Susan G. - For me, it has been a lot probably about 25 hours a month
- Nancy G. - I will go with the 12-15 hours.

4. What is your vision for the growth of S.L.A.A. into the future?

- Susan G. - We get a lot of media requests. One showed our logo in a movie which got the word out that we exist so we have to weigh the pros and cons of that. On our agenda we look at how do we attract not promote. We put up information on our website in the Member Resource area where there are things like if you have a local conference we have everything on the website to set that up such as a banner, etc. We give literature to groups such as S.A.S.H. which do conferences all over the country. Another thing we are considering is a bus bench ad.
- Nancy G. - It is possible with every Conference Committee that it is their mission and motivation to grow the Fellowship particularly with the Sponsorship and Service Committees.
- Earl D. - The Conference Committees like the CICC are doing their work; the CTS approved the abridged version of our Basic Text to allow foreign language translations. Every person on the BOT is always thinking of how to reach out to people.

5. What has Board service done for your personal recovery?

- Bob G. - The BOT is so wonderful and the way we work together is that we do not always agree with each other. Even when we do not agree we do come to a consensus and we get the job done. It has been amazing for me that 5 years ago I could not have imagined being on the Board. I can say that because of the cooperative and collaborative service it has pulled me out of being suicidal.

- Rich K. - My service here has strengthened my sobriety and I have tons of respect for the Board members that came before me. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve and I do what is best for the Fellowship.
- Ashly B. - I did not think 6 years ago I would be part of S.L.A.A. or be part of the BOT. This has given me something bigger to care about. Obsessing over my husband or whatever is not my life today and doing BOT service has taken focus off of me. I have learned to speak up or doing something even if it is not perfect.
- Ned J. - At the time I was asked to be on the Board I was just about ready and had taken a sabbatical from work. One of my concerns was would the Board service affect what I loved doing? Then I was called to be appointed to the Board. My goal is to serve one on one with the people that I love, my sober posse.
- Earl D. - This is a family and this is the healthiest family dynamic I have ever been in. We can agree to disagree. I am still growing and the biggest thing I have learned from the Board is patience. I get to relearn the pacing of things and go through this as part of the spiritual program. I am just glad to be part of this family.
- Susan G. – I am about to be a BOT Alumni and that just blows me away. The one thing I have grown in this Fellowship is perseverance. I have learned that there is safety in these rooms and we are constantly reminded that we are the business part of the Fellowship. Board service has helped me to grow up. I have learned to disagree without being disagreeable.
- Nancy G. - Board service is very expansive for me. I did not anticipate about how much I would be filled up. My recovery is strengthened by the energy of this Fellowship. I can love and serve without disappearing which helps me grow.

6. I have been going to meetings for about 7 years, I have met people who have got really good recovery and then they get married and they stop coming to meetings, how can we create a culture where they have a lot of old timers like they have in the mothership? What can you give? That is what it is about for me.

- Bob G. - I go to several meetings where they are “fixed” after they find Mr. or Mrs. Right which is a challenge for me
- Ned J. - I made my husband my higher power and then I stopped going to S.L.A.A. meetings for 17 years. It was a decade and a half of betrayal. Old timers are the backbone of the Fellowship but the newcomers are the lifeblood. This Fellowship has challenged me in all levels of my life and getting me to a place of finally being my authentic self.
- Ashly B. - I just came out of a relationship just before coming to S.L.A.A. and I committed to not dating for about a year. I thought I was going die. I am the classic girl in a rom-com. I started dating after the one year of not dating but, never stopped going to meetings. After 2 years I met my husband and I could not understand not going to meetings when I did get married. My husband who is also in a 12-Step program has his own triggers. It is about emotional sobriety for me. I could not live without this program and be married.
- Susan G. - I am also married and I do not know if I would still be married if it was not for this program. After so many relationships and marriages I met my husband and we will be celebrating our 10 year wedding anniversary next month.

7. After being encouraged to join a Conference Committee I decided to join the Members Retention Committee and come here to find that it has been disbanded. I was a facilitator in my working career, if we resurrected and put all our energies into doing the best job we can do with it, how do you plan to help us?

- Bob G. - I cannot give you any specifics because I would not know but, if you need help we can do what we can to help. I think member retention is a big problem. I wish I did know.
- Rich K. – It is the Fellowship’s Conference Committee not the Board’s Committee, you can ask for money if you need it to run a function with your Committee but, it is not necessarily a matter of

money. If you set a mission statement and goals and get the word out we would be highly supportive. One of us would be your Liaison to that Conference Committee.

- Susan G. - I was the Board Liaison to that Conference Committee and it has been “dark” (inactive) for over a year. It got me interested in Conference service and I am still here. Please resurrect it; that would be great.

8. With membership retention, somebody said about newcomers being the lifeblood of this Fellowship, the more we do for them the more our member retention will be, maybe we can figure out a way to keep costs down to reach out to newcomers, not really a question just more tagging on to the previous question.

- Susan G. – That is on the Board Outreach agenda. We are interested in how to help you outreach to newcomers to help them feel welcomed. We are looking into a Group Inventory to discuss if you are welcoming to newcomers. The other thing is that the power of the S.L.A.A. purse is with all of you.
- Rich K. - Member retention starts in the meeting. I have seen meetings die. I think having good structure and consistent people whether they stay sober or not but, at least they have a place for the recovering addict. The meeting is the strongest place to maintain retention.

9. Is there anything you can think of to simplify ABM procedures and guidelines; things to make it more accessible? It seems complicated and it prevents people from bringing issues to the table.

- Bob G. - The level of complexity is because we are all used to going to meetings however, the ABM is about business. I do not know if I have an answer for that, maybe we can work towards that. It is complicated and it does require a huge commitment for every person in the room.
- Rich K. - Maybe we can break up the meetings at different times so we can have everything done a month before just a thought. There is a lot happening behind the scenes, maybe do everything electronically. We are open to ideas about this.
- Susan G. - To bring about change occurs from you guys, the Delegates. It is too much to read so where is the fine line? Maybe we can put a cap on how much literature we distribute every year.
- Ashly B. - Just from experience, when I was appointed to the Board I was not sure what I could bring to the table, this is my 4th ABM and I am just now getting comfortable where I am not a deer in the headlights with everything going on. Keep coming back, it does get easier and ask a lot of questions
- Nancy G. - When I was elected to represent my Intergroup, previous members of my Intergroup who had gone to the ABM many times coached me and said just go and take in whatever you can. I think part of it is expectations of ourselves; but, I cannot keep up with all the reading.
 - **Person at Mic** - I was specifically talking about submitting an IFD and/or Motion, it is complicated how to do that.
- Bob G. - I would recommend talking to the CCC about this issue.
- Ned J. - I totally agree with you, it is burdensome. It is a valid point.

10. When you think about Board Service what is the one word that comes to your mind?

- God
- Love
- Compromise
- Connection
- Fun
- Humility
- Work

11. What qualities would you recommend that we look for in new Board candidates?

- Patience and not single-mindedness
- Dedication and willing to learn

- Confidence, patience
- I am a new Board candidate and I hope people reach out to me and ask me who I am, what I believe in and what my values are
- Diversity, not lose your voice
- Ability to get along, be a worker and persevere
- Willingness to serve, curiosity and flexibility

The session ended with a break.

Tuesday July 31, 2018 - 3:45 pm

F.W.S. BOT Financial Report

- Facilitator – Marc S.
- Assistant Facilitator – Ashly B.
- Backup Facilitator – Mathilde M.

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.

- Donations through the first 9 months were 30% of our income, it has been typically 35%-40%, sales of literature is 70%
- The Fiscal Year begins on October 1st and ends September 30th. After the year ends, an audit is done and we turn in Form 990 to the IRS for a non-profit. 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 quarterly **F.W.S. Newsletter**.
- 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.
- Inventory is higher this year; the Fellowship purchased 11,000 books that helped with that.
- Income Statement is a time lapse over a period of time. We are allowed to have a profit at the end of the year.
- Contributions are up this year; we received a significant contribution from an Intergroup which has increased our Intergroup contribution however individual contributions are down.
- Sales are up \$20,000 this year and our ebook is up \$3,000.
- There is a tentative budget set up; an official budget will be decided by the BOT after all budget requests have been received from the Conference Committees.

Questions regarding the Financial Report

- **Q** - Just to clarify every number you have gone through is a 9 month number?
A-Correct
- **Q** - The Office had to renew the lease when I started my first year on the Board, was it a 5 or 10 year lease?
A - It is a 5 year lease with a 5 year renewal. At the beginning of the next calendar year the BOT will decide where we want to go with that
- **Q** - Is there any thought to extend the 5 year extension to a longer term so we do not have to renew every 5 years?
A - We can say that we want to extend the 5 years so at the beginning of the calendar year we will start reviewing that situation.
- **Q** - The Prudent Reserve does not seem like it is set at a certain set point, is there a group conscience on where it needs to be set at X, Y, Z?

A - Our Board documentation recommends we have no more than one year expenses in our Prudent Reserve. Currently we have about 6 months in our Prudent Reserve but we cannot have more than one year.

- **Q** - Shipping income was about \$23,000 and shipping expenses were at \$2,000, what's the net situation with what you paid out for shipping and what you took in for shipping?
A - I can look up that number for you and get back to you.
- **Q** - What is the big deal between sending my money 60/40 vs. sending my money to my Group or to the Intergroup to have it dispersed to you?
A - My question would be, does your Intergroup disperse it to F.W.S.? I only ask because some people send it to their Intergroup under the assumption that some of it will go to F.W.S., our Intergroup sends 40% of the contributions to F.W.S.
- **Q** - So sending the 60/40 way is the recommended way?
A -Yes
- **Q** - Are the Journal Focus Booklets included in the sales income or Journal income?
A - Journal focus would be in sales.
- **Q** - Will the report go out in digital form in Drop Box?
A - No that is why we pass out a hard copy version of it.
- **Q** - Can I request that it is?
A - Yes it will be in the ABM Binder.
- **Q** - Can you tell me about our receivables? Who is the corporation that owes us \$9,000, what is the age of those receivables?
A - Hazelden owes us the money and I think in the last report it was 1-30 days. I believe those receivables are gone as of now and I know we received a payment from them recently.
- **Q** - In 2016 our F.W.S. Website expenses were \$680 then the next year it was \$4,300 and this year it is \$3200 that was a big jump why that change?
A - We used to be with a hosting provider several years ago that was extremely inexpensive which worked for a while and it was a privately-run hosting company which at some point we lost contact with the owner. Our company is doing more things now than in the past so we got a different host, we start digitizing everything such as the online database, also online contribution fee. We did all those changes from one expense report to the other. The big jump is a combination of all the extra fees of all the features you now see on our present website.
- **Q** - Has there been any analysis of how beneficial the online personal contribution button is on the website?
A - I have not done that but, I am sure we can generate a report about it.
- **Q** What is the status of the designated giving program?
A - That would be for a different time; this is the Treasurer's report.
- **Q** - What can you attribute our increase in literature from last year?
A - Literature is becoming more and more of our income, the contribution percentage and amount is not sustained with the levels that could make us sustainable because if the literature were to dry out we would not be able to provide the services that we do.
- **Q** - Can you talk specifically about what the losses of cash on hand were?
A - Our losses were in the \$ 30,000-\$ 35,000 in 2016 -2017, the expenses for this ABM are not reported until the 4th Quarter.
- **Q** - What account number should I look at for outside printing and binding?
A - It is a function of the inventory; the purchase is going to inventory so the expenses are not shown in this report.
- **Q** - Did you intend to end the income statement at Account # 67000 Payroll Expense?
A - Yes

- **Q** - Should we put on the Balance Sheet not reflecting the obligations we have or the cash we have already collected for this meeting? I am just seeing unrestricted cash.
A - Prepayment is reflected in the Balance Sheet for this meeting, some deposits were made which is reflected, we have not put the cash out so it does not reflect that. Registration fee is going to general cash. We are accounting cash modified not accrual, the cash has not been paid.
- **Q** - Total of Expenses are not on the Balance Sheet? And are there some expenses that are not on the report?
A - It is not on there; the cost of sales and literature is not on there and the operating expenses are provided.
- **Q** - Can we see again in the near future the expense of depreciation of building and equipment?
A - Just because the life cycle of the depreciation ends does not mean the actual asset ends. We only replace equipment that we need to replace.
- **Q** - Can you tell us what is driving the surplus up, expenses declining and what does it look like in the future?
A - The literature and the one time donation this year provided a great boost. I believe our literature will continue to grow.
- **Q** - Why not use 4 Quarters instead of 3 Quarters?
A - Our fiscal year end is September 30th to June 30th, we have not finished our fiscal year, they are separate years and not realistic.
- **Q** - Why were the expenses not totaled and subtract the income to come up with the net?
A - We show the operating expenses not the cost of goods sold.
- **Q** - Are we in better shape or worse shape this year compared to last year and the year before?
A - Yes better shape
- **Q** - Why have Committees spent less than 5%, is that historical?
A - Not usually, we try to budget as much as possible.
- **Q** - We do not own the F.W.S. Office building and equipment?
A - No just the equipment, we rent the office space.
- **Q** - Have you considered changing the Fiscal Year so it coincides with the ABM?
A - It does coincide since the fiscal year ends September 30th.

Session ended with announcements and a 15 minute break.

Tuesday July 31, 2018 - 5:00 pm

Committee Reports

- Facilitator – Rita H.
- Assistant Facilitator – Bob G.
- Timekeeper – Joe C.
-

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

Board Chair – Bob G.: Honored to be your Chair, this is my last year as Board Chair because we rotate out every 2 years. The new literature is for sale and I encourage everybody to look at it, I am in love with that *Chapter 4 Companion*. We need people to join Committees.

- **BDC Chair** – Rich K.: We review the By-Laws and we put out a By-Law amendment this year. We try to reach out to non-BOT members to serve on Board Committees and potential Board members. We run the elections as well. We developed a *Policy for Rotation of Service for non-BOT Members* for 5 years on Board Committees.
- **BFC Chair** – Rich K.: We review the financial information on a monthly and quarterly basis then we send it to the Board for approval. We work with our auditor and review their entries after we provide

information to them. Our audit this year had no recommendations for change. We approve the budget and send to the Board for approval.

- **BOC Chair** – Susan G.: After literature is approved we go to work on making sure that grammar, etc. is correct. We address public information and come up with ideas like a bus bench ad. We coordinate with people who want to put on conferences and provide literature or whatever they need for that.
- **BFSC Chair**- Earl D.: We look at the long-term financial viability and security of our Fellowship. We have finished the policy aspect of the designated giving program. We are working on the donor agreement. We did the add cash register policy which is still being implemented.
- **BHRPC Chair** – Nancy G.: Our task is to focus on all matters related to staff and volunteers in or associated with the F.W.S. Office. We wrote a new policy on filling office vacancies, scheduling office holidays, addressing family leave, harassment and disability which have all been BOT approved. The Employee Handbook has been strengthened.
- **BPMC Chair** – Ashly B.: Identifies and researches new programs to meet the needs of F.W.S. We revised and edited the host city applications for an ABM. We are updating the ABM host city manual. We created a policy on sobriety requirements for Board Committees. The 50th Anniversary text is on our agenda.

There are **47/48 voting members present** and there is a quorum (39).

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

- **CAC** – P.A. K. Chair: Our mission statement has changed, it is shorter. There are 13 active members; a subcommittee link is on the website about writing on Steps 8, 9, 10, 11, 12. “Anorexia 4-5-6-7” has been submitted as a Motion.
- **CBC** – Phillip W. Designated representative: We go through the By-Laws and check to make sure they are in accordance with what the CSM. We submitted a By-Laws change with the BOT.
- **CCC** – Jay G. Vice-Chair: The CCC deals with 3 major areas: 1-ABM such as planning, scheduling, and all forms that are needed; 2-the ARS that prepares the ABM Agenda and 3-provide the functions of the CMRBOTC.
- **CDC** – Dave G. Designated representative: Addressing diversity within the Fellowship. Updating the Diversity Statement, using Starbucks as the model. We have a catalog of meeting formats with different diversity focuses.
- **CFC** – Marc S. Vice-Chair: We made a bookmark for literature which says “send money” to encourage people to send money. We encourage all Conference Committees to prepare their budgets in a timely manner.
- **CICC** - Seth S. Intergroups really need a way to communicate about common problems. We started to build a platform where people can go to a forum where they can connect with other Intergroups to share problems and solutions.
- **CJC** - Lisa C. Chair: We are responsible for the bi-monthly meeting and print magazine focusing on S.L.A.A. recovery and related issues. We talk about how to get more people interested in reading *the Journal* and to increase subscriptions. We will be talking about ways to get the word out more. There is also a newsletter and anyone can sign-up.
- **CLC** - Dave G. Co-Chair: We are responsible for all S.L.A.A. literature. We have a Motion for approval of the Meditation book and 2 IFDs on the ABM Agenda. We are working on trying to improve the process of getting literature released quicker.
- **CSC** - Anne K. Designated representative: Our mission is to support, educate and increase member’s commitment to service. We are in the process of updating a flyer of how to commit to F.W.S. service. We are looking at the possibility of merging with another Conference Committee.
- **CSPC** - Anne K. Chair; We maintain information on the F.W.S. website, suggestions on how to find a sponsor, general questions for the sponsor and how to get involved with the Committee. We are

going to start being a regular member of the Phone Intergroup. We have 70 requests for sponsorship this year.

- **CPIC** - Dave G. Designated representative; the mission to carry the message to the addict who still suffers. Our present chair will step down and therefore we need a new chair.
- **CSTCC** - Dave G. Designated representative; we answer questions from the Fellowship and we have been working on the *12 Concepts* booklet which is an IFD on the ABM Agenda.
- **CTIOC** – Phillip W. Designated representative; Our mission is to provide literature for members worldwide. The *Translations Guidelines* have been amended and posted on the F.W.S. website. We have new inquiries from different countries.

Session ended with housekeeping and announcements.

BOT Election Information by the BDC Chair - Rich K.

The Conference will be electing up to 3 new Trustees at this meeting. One returning BOT member, Nancy G. is running for election. Ned J. is running for confirmation, as he was appointed during this Conference Year. He is an up or down choice, and does not affect the other 3 open positions. As many people can run as are eligible. There is a 3-year continuous sobriety requirement.

The nominations will open tomorrow morning and will close at the end of the first session on Thursday. There is a written interview which includes an essay, and an oral interview that will need to be completed.

On Thursday afternoon, there is a “Meet the Candidates” session where you will sit in front of the Conference, speak on Tradition 4, and answer questions from the Conference. If elected, you will need to attend the monthly Board Meeting, serve on 1-2 Board Committees and may even Chair one, and be liaison to 1-2 Conference Committees. It is work, but certainly worth it. Feel free to speak to any current or past Board members if you have questions. I will open the nominations tomorrow. You can self-nominate or be nominated by someone else. Either way there is no 2nd required to run for the Board.

Return Wed 8am.

Wednesday August 1, 2018

After a visit to the F.W.S. Office followed by trips to the Alamo and Riverwalk Tuesday night (organized by the San Antonio Intergroup) and breakfast the General Assembly began.

Wednesday August 1, 2018 – 8:00 am

Board Nominations, Executive Director and F.W.S. Website Presentations

- Facilitator – Jack S.
- Assistant Facilitator – Anne K.
- Backup Facilitator – Irv B.
- Timekeeper – Kirsten C.
- Timekeeper – Christina H.
- Spiritual reminder – John S.

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

- 12 Steps – Kelly R.
- 12 Traditions – Nora B.
- 12 Concepts – Jaclyn P.

The ABM Agenda Fourth Version was provided and the digital binder was updated.

The count is **48/48 voting members are present** and there is a quorum (39).

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

Executive Director – Who Are We Reaching Report What are we shipping at the Office? What are people ordering? July 2017 – June 2018

Written report provided.

- Shipped 2,002 orders which 1,704 were physical shipments such as books, pamphlets and medallions, 153 new and renewing Journal subscriptions, 132 mp3 audio downloads only with 13 other download only items, and 23 miscellaneous shipments.
- We have shipped 2,037 orders to the USA, 135 outside of USA: 67 Europe/UK, 32 Australia/New Zealand, 21 Canada/Mexico, 10 Asia, 4 South America, 1 Africa.
- Who got *the Journal* this year? 164 print subscriptions, 25 are international subscriptions; there are 56 digital subscribers with 25 one-year and 31 two-year subscriptions.
- Who is buying the Basic Text as an e-Book? 2,042 total downloads (iTunes and Kindle)

Questions regarding the ED Report

- **Q** - If an individual purchases items from Amazon, does F.W.S. get the contribution?
A - Absolutely, Amazon does take a small fee for every purchase.
- **Q** - Does that include Hazelden?
A - Yes, it is counted as one order.
- **Q** - Where are we today in terms of sales from the hard copy Basic Text?
A - Actually our sales are up with the Basic Text, the ebook hasn't affected the sales of the hardcopy Basic Text.
- **Q** - How do we accept payment for orders?
A - For the office, we ask that you do not send cash. We accept check and money order. If an order is taken over the phone we take PayPal and credit card. The online store accepts any credit card which is also set up for international and PayPal but it does not have the capability to accept check, money order or cash.
- **Q** - I never received a notice of my subscription ending for *the Journal* nor do I see a renewal notice?
A - Every month we have a list that shows the people for whom the last issue of *the Journal* is coming up; I do have some people that say they never got their letter which could be a post mail issue.
- **Q** - So there is no way to cross reference that or attach to their last issue?
A - It is a two-step process like I said we have a list of those whose subscription will expire so we send out notices and sometimes the subscribers move and never tell us their new address.
- **Q** - My Basic Text book binding wears out in 2 years; can you talk to our supplier about getting a better book binding?
A - I will send them the feedback.
- **Q** - Is there any way a hard copy of *the Journal* will be available online to purchase for European members?
A - A hard copy of *the Journal* is already available to order via the F.W.S. Office and you can call us to order.
- **Q** - The eJournal requires a particular app to download it, will it be available to purchase on something more popular such as Kindle?
A - We are looking into other options with the eJournal platform; the eJournal is available on the online store.

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

Beth S. indicated this ABM represents 11 years as the F.W.S. Webmaster. My report will be in two parts: 1- *What are we doing now?* 2- *What are we doing next?* and a written report is provided.

What are we doing now?

- We recently switched the website to another host because we had 78 outages within 6 hours
- With the move, we have saved over \$700 a year

- 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 the CTC (now the CTIOC) and all the people who worked so hard work getting that done.
- Members in service can find what they need on Member Resources and Conference Service tabs.
- Online forms for F.W.S. Contributions, ABM Registrations and Surveys.
- CSTCC Articles – We made the PDF documents searchable that have CSTCC topics/questions
 - discussed, it is very useful.
- Contacts for F.W.S. Office, Board of Trustees, and Conference Committees via email.
- Journal is available to purchase in paper and digital format, 52 digital back issues available and growing, we have mp3 versions of some of the Journals
- Quarterly **F.W.S. Newsletter** with over 1,100 subscribers.
- Website had 244,000 unique visitors in 2017 from January - December.
- Over 1,000 unique domains link to us mainly from Intergroup websites.
- 77 Registered Intergroups. There are still a lot of groups not registered.
- 204 Countries Reached in 2017.
- The online store has a wish list. PayPal is a new addition which was added last year.
- The online store had 1,741 orders, boxed 67,907 items.
- 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.
- The contributions service is for one-time or recurring which accepts debit/credit cards and echecks.

What are we doing next?

- Continuing to evaluate the Group and Intergroup database
- Trying to expand on what is a Group vs. Intergroup
- Adding more digital audio selections
- Adding new resources which include more tools for local outreach
- Implementing new programs and adding literature approved at previous ABMs
- Conducting a 2018 Membership Survey to learn who the Fellowship is and how we can better serve the newcomer and member, and preparing a pamphlet to highlight the successes and trends of S.L.A.A. around the world.

Questions regarding the F.W.S. Website Report

- **Q** - Can you give any suggestions about having new and up-to-date information about a meeting date, time, and location?
A - It is a frustration when I am maintaining that database which starts from the information that I receive from both groups and intergroups. The CICC is passionate about communicating with the Intergroups.
- **C** - Is there a way to put on all the contacts to encourage calling before traveling to a meeting? Maybe we can add that.
- **Q** - Has the Membership Survey been in our newsletter?
A - A flyer was put in the last issue of the newsletter.
- **Q** - On the website, have they linked to other Intergroups?
A - Yes; on the meeting finder when you go to your state, it will show the Intergroups first and it has their website and contact information, the Intergroup maintains their own information.
- **Q** - In the links area, does your database break down outreach by region?
A - The database is grouped by country and state
- **Q** - Of the 1,100 subscribers, how many are now actually opening their newsletter emails?
A - About 30%

- **Q** - Could we get these stats into the next newsletter?
A - Sure, they will be in the Fall issue.
- **Q** - Does the meeting list have a last contact date?
A - Every listing on the meeting finder has a last updated date.
- **Q** - When you get a call about somebody going to a meeting and nobody ends up being there, can we have somebody from the Fellowship contact them?
A - If somebody sends an email like that, we reply saying that we rely on the Groups to give us current information and we let them know about the online meetings. In regards to getting a personal call, we would rely on people.
- **Q** - Do you have any plans to produce *the Journal* and newsletter in ebook format? And if the audio CDs will be put on audibles app so they are accessible on phones?
A - *the Journal* is a periodical which I looked up for example; Amazon used to have a periodical service which has been discontinued and what they do now is be selective about what magazines they put on their website so it is impossible for us to have it through an ebook format. The newsletter is distributed through Constant Contact in pdf format. We can put that in eformat but, it would be a financial commitment because we did that with the Basic Text for a fee. I do not believe we have looked into putting the audio CDs into audibles app but, that is something I can look into.
- **Q** - Do we have any way that if an individual searches “porn” or “sex” that the S.L.A.A. website can be on the top of the search?
A - Search engines are organic now, it used to be word quantity, but it is something we can look into.

Session ended with announcements and housekeeping.

Board Nominations Open – Rich K.

- Susan G. proposed Beth S.
Q – Are you willing to serve on the Board of Trustees? – YES
Q – Do you meet the 3-year sobriety requirement? – YES
- Harold K. proposed P.A. K.
Q – Are you willing to serve on the Board of Trustees? – YES
Q – Do you meet the 3-year sobriety requirement? – YES
- Joe C. proposed Jay G.
Q – Are you willing to serve on the Board of Trustees? – YES
Q – Do you meet the 3-year sobriety requirement? – YES

Return 2:15pm.

Wednesday August 1, 2018

After Conference Committee meetings and lunch the General Assembly reconvened.

General Assembly August 1, 2018 - 2:15pm

- Facilitator – Rich K.
- Assistant Facilitator – Steve L.
- Backup Facilitator – Lindsey H.
- Time keepers – Scott F. and Kirsten C.
- Vote Counters – Jeff C. and Kelly R.

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

Assembly began with **45/48** voting members present:

- **39 is the Quorum**
- **32 is 2/3rd that is binding on the Board**
- **25 is the simple majority**

ABM Agenda Begins

18o01/17-13 Motion: To approve the “Meditation Book” as Conference-Approved Literature (Draft literature #018 in the Conference Literature Committee. Draft Attached.)

Committee Comments on the ABM Agenda - CLC approved this draft (CLC #018).

Pros and Cons

- **Pro** – L.A. Intergroup voted to approve the Meditation Book, several meetings took votes that read the book as part of their daily reading which all 3 meetings had none opposed.
- **Pro** – There is already information in the book that is Conference approved literature, you can read each day within a short period, and this book has been in the works for 15 years.
- **Pro** – A wonderful way to read on a daily basis, this book spurs reflection, it would help somebody at any level of recovery.
- **Con/Q** – Has there been any checking of possible copyright infringement of the material?
A - All information is quoted from the Basic Text and Conference approved literature of S.L.A.A., anything quoted outside of that has been cited.

30 seconds of silence

There has been a change in the count; there are now 47 voting members present.

30 seconds of silence

1st Vote 45-0-2 18o01/17-13 Motion

Minority Opinion - none

18o01/17-13 Motion passes

Point of Order - Is there something else that depending on the margin it passes is binding on the Board?

A -The literature needs to be reviewed by the BOT and if there is any change less than 25% in the literature amount it does not have to come back to an ABM.

Motion Passes by greater than a 2/3rds vote and is binding on the BOT but subject to the literature review process and any changes there.

18n02/18-01 IFD: Whether the deadline to nominate people for election to the Board of Trustees from the floor of the ABC/M should remain at the morning of the day before the election (typically a Thursday morning deadline to make nominations for a Friday morning election) or should be moved up to an earlier deadline such as a Wednesday afternoon deadline to make nominations for a Friday morning election.

Committee Comments not on the ABM Agenda

- The BOT and others have proposed to change this deadline (without any vote or feedback of the Conference) to the afternoon of the day two days before the election.

20 minutes allocated for discussion of this IFD with statements at one minute or less.

- Moving the deadline earlier is a good idea. I would like to see the CCC and BDC create a voting process that is equal partners because what the BDC is doing is not what it says in the CSM. I do not

think we should go forward with this Motion until those 2 Committees can come up with an equal voting process.

- It is really important that we do modify this. Trying to have a morning deadline the day before is cutting it short to make informed decisions. I would suggest having the deadline at the end of the last business session on Wednesday. They do need to modify the voting process so they 'are consistent.
- Even though would love to have more time to read all the paperwork, I am worried that it would make the BOT inaccessible because it takes me a couple of days to get used to the process when I arrive at the ABM. I would never accept a position this morning. More people would need more time to settle with the process and I think we should move it forward.
- You mentioned how people would volunteer to serve and then they would drop out. People have good intentions to serve but, they need time to think about it. If you are nominated you need to give it a moment to understand the commitment.
- I am more interested in the process that would result. It seems that whatever is decided it should be by the Conference not the BOT. The deadline should be clearly stated in the By-Laws.
- The By-Laws are set and cannot be changed. There are times where this will not work for this group, maybe we can create a policy or a practice as opposed to a By-Law.

This IFD 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.

18n03/18-02 IFD: Conference Steps, Traditions, and Concepts Committee is submitting the attached booklet "The Twelve Concepts of Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous" as an Item for Discussion at the 2018 ABM. We are requesting discussion and feedback on the text of this draft booklet. (Draft literature #050 in the Conference Literature Committee. Draft Attached.)

Committee Comments on the ABM Agenda - CLC approved this draft (CLC #050).

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

- We had a great discussion earlier today about how boring the Concepts are, I read this draft literature and it was so illuminating, feedback is needed on this and this literature is so helpful.
- This is a wonderful effort to get this out there, the idea to get this Conference wide and have the Fellowship understand this is wonderful because down at the local level we may not know the Concepts exist.
- They were introduced to this Fellowship 6 years ago, I enjoyed reading the mothership's version of the Concepts and I believe illuminating these to the Fellowship would be helpful.
- Reading this piece of draft literature, I find such a calm voice guiding me through the Concepts, I really enjoyed this literature.
- We do not have to reinvent the wheel, we are just tweaking it, AA 12 Concepts has done a great job and I encourage others to read it.
- The Concepts assist in service and being in recovery, that is something we are struggling with so having a resource available to help with that is a win-win situation
- This seems to be a good hard-worked piece of literature, after 4 years being in S.L.A.A. I finally heard about the Concepts, where would this literature be targeted/marketed to? Where can it best be utilized? Like can it be utilized by the Committees?
- I was wondering why the Concepts of service are not mentioned in our title of S.L.A.A.
- Having been part of several Committees we sometimes do read the Concepts before the meeting, as well as some Intergroups, it is a really good practice to do, it reinforces how we do service.
- This can benefit from definitions for example, what is a Delegate or a service sponsor? It does seem

to have some absolutes in it. Surely, we can soften this a bit.

- We started reading the Concepts before the meetings and this document would be really helpful, it is quite bare when the Concepts are read on its own.
- To me this is a really good document to get to help us, the local levels need this about service, this can help individuals understand their service better.
- We can bring these Concepts to our autonomous Groups so they can know what they can do with service.

This IFD 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.

Session ended with housekeeping and announcements. Return at 3:45pm.

Wednesday August 1, 2018 - 3:30pm

- Facilitator – Gabriel G.
- Assistant Facilitator – Nancy G.
- Backup Facilitator – Kara B.
- Time keepers – Scott F.
- Spiritual reminder – John S.
- Vote Counters – Jeff C. and Kelly R.

Point of Clarification: This is about the 2/3rds binding on the BOT; 30/45 who are present however its 32/48 total seated and registered; which one do we use?

A - 32

There are **46/48 voting members present** and there is a quorum (39).

Announcement of the Question of the Day for *the Journal*

18n04/18-03 Motion: Approve the text of the “Step Questions Workbook” as Conference Approved Literature. (Draft literature #015 in the Conference Literature Committee. Draft Attached.)

Committee Comments on the ABM Agenda - CLC approved this draft (CLC #015).

- The BOT supports the approval of this Motion and looks forward to having this workbook available for sale to the Fellowship.

Pros and Cons

- **Pro** – I started using this workbook last year as a draft and I really enjoyed it. There was a lot of helpful information and I hope that this is passed.
- **Pro** – I had a deeper experience when I went through this workbook. I took away a real understanding of my disease. I have a tangible thing to remind me when I am struggling with my addiction. This has been important to my recovery and I support this.
- **Pro** - This has been helpful with our sponsors, it gives them direction. The book helps to focus.
- **Pro** - I found this workbook very valuable.
- **Pro** - I think this is a really good resource to walk through with a sponsor. How many are we going to lose if we do not publish this?
- **Pro** - From my Groups, we are strongly in favor of this Motion and to put it in use.
- **Pro** - I cannot tell you how many calls we get for a “Step Questions Workbook” at the F.W.S. Office, it definitely fills a gap.
- **Pro** – We are in favor of all literature that is voted on, I worked the Steps through the workbook and it speaks to me and it gets my disease down to bits and pieces. I hope it gets passed.

- **Pro** - This is an email from the Santa Cruz Intergroup to the CLC: “We are in support of this document being published and generating income for the Fellowship. “
- **Con** - I have not used this workbook, I was struck by the negative language on my first glance through it, it was a little bit confusing and chaotic, my primary protest was the qualifier worksheet, I do think it is a great idea to have a Step workbook so I am totally in favor however I do not think it is ready to go.
- **Con** – I did not like this workbook. This workbook has 228 questions which is a lot; the Qualifier Worksheet did not really speak to me. I am a little scared about what we are putting in print. I would like to keep this simple.
- **Con** – This caused some disagreement, we agree there is a huge deficit in the amount of Conference approved literature, the workbook seems disorganized and if there is a little more time maybe we can make it more organized. There were things that were very helpful.
- **Con** - The Fellowship would benefit from this workbook however, it is lacking in experience, strength and hope for the newcomer, we would not give this to newcomers and sponsees in its current form. This workbook lacks clarity and organization.
- **Con** - The workbook still needs to be worked on. Why did not the workbook approach the H.O.W. Questions? Which was asked many times in my Intergroup.
- **Con** - I was intrigued that S.L.A.A. published their own workbook, it does have a negative introduction which is scary, it took me 6 months to actually read the Basic Text and then another 6 months to do the workbook.
- **Con** - I have used portions of this workbook, on reflection today I too was caught off guard of having a sponsee new or old give his own definition of sobriety. I am more influenced by people who have read this more thoroughly. Not sure I think this is ready.
- **Con** - I agree this is a valuable tool however, there should be some considerable work done to this.
- **Con** - I think people using the workbook have benefited from this and I think it should be kept being used as non-approved Conference literature, keep it sponsor to sponsee, at the point when there is less dissent then consider passing it as a Motion then.
- **Con** – I have worked the Steps and it has not had any dissent in the UK, I find it very helpful, I want a workbook but, let us not have one that is not complete yet.
- **Con** - I do have an experience with this workbook and it did not sit well with me with the language and tone.

Point of Order - We have exceeded our 3 Pros and Cons however, since we have time we will continue.

Point of Order - What would happen with this document if it were to fail? What is the process moving forward?

A - If it were to fail, a piece of literature can come back on the ABM Agenda next year. An Item that does not have anything to do with literature would be back on the ABM Agenda in 2 years.

Point of Order - This was on the ABM Agenda last year; passed, failed, then passed but there was a Challenge to the Group Conscience and it failed. What would be the status of this next year?

A - It can continue.

30 seconds of silence

1st Vote 24-19-5 18n04/18-03 Motion

Verification of number of voting members in the room: 48 voting members present

The vote is not unanimous. There is now an opportunity for those in the minority to speak; if none in the minority speaks the 1st Vote will stand. Those opposed are in the minority. Is there anyone who voted in the minority who wishes to speak?

Minority Opinion:

- Great is the enemy of the good, we are not looking for perfection; this workbook is simply not at the point where it is ready.
- We have a year to review and re-draft this, just a thought.
- The first thing in there comes with a negative connotation. More positivity comes with more solutions. Putting more positive energy into this would go a long way.
- I feel like too much structure takes away from the spirit of the Fellowship, I think it is missing a customized approach.
- I agree with a lot of things that have been said such as it is not ready to be released, to have a whole section about the qualifier worksheet is problematic, for me this workbook does not represent what this Fellowship is about.

Point of Clarification – It is the Minority that is speaking right now and is for those who voted No.

- As I sat and listened to the Conference my feeling is that it will never be unanimous.
- I really have no desire to use a booklet that puts me down and is negative from the beginning.
- It sounds like this is not ready, it needs more input to allow people to find their own meaning, looking at themselves and their own addiction, there needs to be more focus on the spiritual aspect of the program.
- When in doubt leave it out, I love the feeling when we approved the Meditation Book and I would love to have that same feeling with this workbook, it would be best to go slow.

60 seconds Spiritual Reminder

Point of Order - If the vote is 50% which is 24 out of 48, do we actually have a majority?

A - 48 makes it unanimous, we will now do a 2nd vote.

Questions regarding the voting process

- **Q** - If 24 is not a majority, does that mean it is a minority and then the 24 who voted in favor will they have an opportunity to speak?
A - Refer to page 28 CSM under Explanation of Vote For, Against and Abstaining, the first bullet point under Abstaining
- **Q** - Am I correct in stating that as a practical matter it takes 2/3rds vote to pass anything and 50% or 50% plus 1 is not a substantial difference?
A – It is 2/3rds binding on the BOT not to pass but, yes 50% plus 1 is the simple majority
- **Q** - On the voting process, if people abstain it changes the gross number of the minority so 48-5 is 43, half of 43 would become a majority? Is that correct?
A – Yes
- **Q** - Can you explain what a Yes is and what a No is?
A – It is the same; a vote to approve the Motion means that we will be obligated to approve the text of the “Step Questions Workbook” as Conference Approved Literature. A vote opposed to the Motion means that we will not be obligated to approve the text of the “Step Questions Workbook” as Conference Approved.

30 seconds of silence

2nd Vote 21-26-1 18n04/18-03 Motion

48 voting members present

Minority Opinion: Those who are in Favor of the Motion

- Many people mentioned about the negative experience they had with this workbook which for me did not seem negative which was hopeful and it reveals the truth.
- **Point of Clarification:** What percentage can the BOT change?
A - 25%
- Most of the Pros were Intergroups, people who worked through the workbook and most of the cons were people who read the workbook, when I look at last year's document and this year's it has a lot of the same language so I am wondering if next year if we will have basically the same document.
- I think it' is very valuable
- It is another tool that we should look at to pass and provide an opportunity for individuals to make the decision whether or not it works for them.
- I love this workbook because it hearkens back to the mothership, the hopelessness and despair is what brought me to this Fellowship, this was a complete admission of defeat and there's solid recovery in this book.
- This is just a tool, it is not THE answer and we need this tool.
- There is not going to be a right way for everybody, it is a good tool and ready to be published.
- In the context of this discussion, should the BOC use the comments as way to soften the language without going over the 25%?
- A tool is only as good as the person who wheels it, we have used tools from everybody else and not from our own.
- There is a lack of sponsors out there and so many newcomers on the phone lines, this provides something for the women on the phone line.
- I disagree with the objection to the Qualifier Worksheet.

30 seconds of silence

3rd Vote 26-22-0 18n04/18-03 Motion

48 voting members present

Challenge to the Group Conscience: This only applies to a vote that has been approved on the ABM Agenda and before removal from the ABM Agenda. We will now 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-down vote, a majority vote rules with no minority opinion.

30 seconds of silence

Vote 22-26-0 for 18n04/18-03 Conference voted that the 3rd Vote was not the Group Conscience.

Motion is closed for this ABM and removed from the ABM Agenda. The assembly ended at 5:10pm with announcements and the Serenity Prayer.

Thursday August 2, 2018

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

Thursday August 2, 2018 - 8:00am

- Facilitator – Earl D.
- Assistant Facilitator – Lindsey H.
- Backup Facilitator – Gabriel G.
- Time keepers – Mona E. and Cory F.
- Spiritual reminder – Nora B.
- Vote Counters – Carol S. and Christina H.

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

- 12 Steps – Fiona M. (read in Spanish)
- 12 Traditions – Ivo P. (read in Dutch)
- 12 Concepts – Sam E.
- 12 Recommended Guidelines for Dealing with the Media - Scott F.

There are **47/48 voting members are present** and there is a quorum (39).

Announcement of the Question of the Day for *the Journal*

Board Nomination Announcement by the BDC Chair - Rich K. indicated that Beth S. has withdrawn her nomination for the BOT and Board nominations close at the end of this session.

18n05/18-04 Motion: To approve “Anorexia 4-5-6-7: Working the Program and not the Problem” as Conference-Approved Literature (Draft literature #10 in the Conference Literature Committee, Draft Attached).

Committee Comments on the ABM Agenda: CLC approved this draft (CLC #010).

- The Board encourages all literature to undergo the process of being presented as an IFD first as opposed to a Motion in order to cultivate greater participation at the Conference Fellowship level.

Pros and Cons

- **Pro** – The document is intended to supplement not replace the Basic Text, it helps us to understand that we are not alone, it is an essential tool to begin to heal, I know this document is important
- **Pro** – I am grateful for this literature to guide me along the way
- **Pro** - This has been very highly received in our Intergroups, I find this document very helpful
- **Pro** - The NEI has put on an Anorexic Retreat and it has been highly received.
- **Cons** - None

30 seconds of silence

1st Vote 44-0-2 18n05/18-04 Motion

46 voting members present

This Motion has been Approved by a group conscience of the Conference. The Motion has been adopted by a 2/3rds vote, which is binding upon the BOT. This Motion is closed for this ABM and removed from the ABM Agenda.

18n06/18-05 Motion: That Fellowship-Wide Services remove the term “Lone Group” from all forms, records, and publications (both print and electronic). Moving forward, three suggested classifications to differentiate groups are the following: Groups, Groups affiliated with Intergroups, Intergroups.

Committee Comments on the ABM Agenda - None

Point of Clarification: How might an Amendment be suggested to this group?

- **A** - You can bring up an amendment and the Submitter would choose to accept or deny it; refer to page 39 in the CSM.

Friendly Amendment: I strongly support everything that has been said by Committees and the Board. Regarding getting rid of the word “lone”, my Motion is that we delete the 2nd sentence in this Motion as unnecessary and possibly confusing. CICC requests 5 minutes to discuss the amendment. All agree to the Friendly Amendment 48/48 voting members present.

New Motion Reads: That Fellowship-Wide Services remove the term “Lone Group” from all forms, records, and publications (both print and electronic).

- 2nd sentence has been removed.

Pros and Cons

- **Pro** - My home group is SLAA Online, some of you might remember the Call Squad and that was Board members and other trusted servants who would reach out to Intergroups to see if they needed anything, we were not allowed on the list because we were a “Lone Group”. We were excited when we were an Intergroup. I would highly encourage to do away with the designation of a “Lone Group”.
- **Pro** - We are not alone, I do support removing the term “Lone Group”, we are missing a voice here because of being a “Lone Group” not having the knowledge or resources.
- **Pro** - I strongly support the Motion as now amended. I do not know what the solution is though.
- **Pro** - Definition of lone means preferring solitude. To us it was important to get rid of the negative connotation.
- **Con** - I agree there are some who find the word lone is off-putting and it is a much bigger picture than a word. This will have a ripple effect on the website and it is about how the meeting finder is structured. We need to take our time and whatever this word becomes we are not ready to make that structure yet.
- **Con** - I just used the word addict which also has negative connotations. Having labels and being rooted in a word makes me make better decisions. There is no great replacement for lone. I believe this Motion is not that strong.
- **Con** - In my Intergroup we voted to keep “Lone Group” and really because we could not find a good replacement for the word. We will stick with lone.
- **Con** - The term “Lone Group” had a significant connotation, if they were remote and did not have an actual Intergroup as opposed to a Group that was part of an Intergroup and did not want to be part of that Intergroup anymore. “Lone Group” has a historical significance.

Questions regarding the voting process

- **Q** - Do I stand correct that if the Motion is not approved because it is not literature it can be put back on the ABM Agenda in 2 years?
A - Yes

30 seconds of silence

1st Vote 17-28-3 18n06/18-05 Motion

48 voting members present

Minority Opinion

- I accept the vote but, as stated in the Concepts we all have the right of decision making, this can be implemented by service bodies at their discretion regardless of the outcome of the vote.
- This is part of a bigger issue/structure, the intent behind this is about the newcomer, and we are making it difficult for a newcomer to find a meeting or start a meeting. We have barriers for the newcomer but there are groups with resentment.

- **Point of Clarification:** How much literature would we have to take the word “Lone Group” out of?
A - I am not sure; most of that stuff where it is printed is for the ABM.
- My position has not changed, I am concerned if a Group is a “Lone Group” they cannot come to the ABM and they cannot vote, I think some Groups worldwide have problems with their Intergroup where it is not run effectively. They do not have a voice at the ABM. I believe this is worth the effort and we can come up with a different name later.
- We are not alone, that has been a source of our unity. This elimination even if it takes years, the lone quality of this term needs to occur.
- We are not alone, how good does that feel when we are struggling? It means so much to myself and I am sure to all of you, this Motion is here to say remove “Lone Group” and we will have to come up with another word, but why do we not get rid of the negative connotation?

Points of Clarification:

- **Q** - If the change is made to literature what happens to all the literature that exists?
A - Our current practice, we sell out of what we have currently in literature and when we go to reprint that is when the change would be made.
- **Q** - Does removing the term “Lone Group” change the requirements for Delegates?
A – “Lone Groups” have been represented at the ABM in the past so they can send a Delegate to the ABM for representation.
- **Q** - Just removing the term “Lone Group” does that actually change the status of those Groups that would have been known as “Long Groups”?
A - I do not think so the status can be removed
- **Q** - If you take off the name “Lone Group”, all the Groups previously known as “Lone Group” and therefore could be represented at the ABM, can we take any Group at the ABM?
A - I believe the intent of the amendment and the submission would allow them to make that change to determine what lone becomes and if something else.
- **Q** - And until that something is identified, would that be figured out by the next ABM?
A - I do not know.

30 seconds Spiritual Reminder

2nd Vote 15-30-3 18n06/18-05 Motion

48 voting members present

Motion did not pass by the group conscience of this Conference. The Motion has not been adopted by a 2/3rds vote which would have been binding upon the BOT. This Motion is closed at this ABM and removed from the ABM Agenda.

Session ended with housekeeping and announcements

Reconvene at 2:15pm.

Thursday August 2, 2018 - 2:15pm

- Facilitator – Phillip W.
- Assistant Facilitator – Joe C.
- Backup Facilitator – Irv. B.
- Time keepers – Mona E. and Cory F.
- Spiritual reminder – Nora B.
- Vote Counters – Carol S. and Christina H.

There are **46/48 voting members present** and there is a quorum (39).

Announcement of the Question of the Day for *the Journal*.

18n07/18-06 Motion: Amend the By-Laws Article VI, Section 2 - Number, Tenure and Qualifications A, B, C. Add to letter B: For the purpose of this Section 2., a year term shall conclude at the completion of an election process at the ABM or any special meeting in lieu of an Annual Business Meeting, regardless of whether a full calendar year has expired since the conclusion of the prior election process. The Trustees who are present and not elected shall be allowed to continue as voting members of the Conference through the end of the Annual Business Meeting. Newly elected Trustee members will maintain the voting status that they had at the beginning of the Conference.

Committee Comments not on the ABM Agenda - none

Friendly Amendment: In the first sentence, proposed change would be: For the purpose of this Section 2., the final year of each term shall conclude at the completion of an election process at the Annual Business Meeting or at a special meeting in lieu of an Annual Business Meeting. A partial term or the final year of any term may include a period of less than one year.

Submitter accepts the Friendly Amendment.

Pros and Cons:

- **Pros:** None
- **Con:** My problem has to do with the special meeting, it is an addition to the By-Laws and what it allows is that the BOT may at their discretion have a vote without the Conference, I suggest that special meeting should not be put in the By-Laws.
- **Con:** I would like to offer my experience, what this Motion proposes is to prevent the outgoing Board member to contribute their experience at the last BOT meeting at the ABM which is the most important meeting of the year since it has a new Board Chair and members. I would like for them to be in the room when making the decisions of choosing Officers. My suggestion to the BOT would be to withdraw this Motion, create a Motion that retains a current work policy and allow the newly elected BOT members access to the final BOT meeting as Observers without a vote and this will not violate the By-Laws.
- **Con:** The first meeting that a newly elected Board Member attends can be overwhelming and they are being asked to vote on important issues, when I start something new I value having a Mentor and I would love to just sit in on one of these meetings and observe and I would like to see the exiting BOT member to be present.
- **Con:** It is a mandate we have a total of 9 BOT members in the By-Laws, if we retain a Board member for that last meeting after the last election, I believe we're in violation of the Charter. I do not know how more than 9 people can vote and not be in violation of our Charter.
- **Con:** The Board may call a special meeting but it is for emergency purposes. Some requirements to have a special meeting: There would be notice in advance of a special meeting, $\frac{2}{3}$ attendance is required, 60% of voting members would have to vote. I do not think it is any attempt on the Board to be nefarious.
- **Con:** We have had an opinion on the BOT that the number of people in the room voting cannot exceed the maximum number of Trustees and therefore it is not an attempt to exclude the outgoing member, it only seems right that the people in the room voting for the members of their BOT will be the ones who are going to serve.
- **Point of Clarification:** Is this the type of Motion where if it is voted down cannot come back for 2 years or can it come back next year in another form?
A - Because it is a By-Laws Motion the BOT are allowed to re-submit if it does not pass.

- **Point of Clarification:** What if this Motion is Tabled till next year?
A - If it is Tabled it will come back on the ABM Agenda next year.
- **Point of Clarification:** Will it come back on the Agenda as it is currently worded?
A - Tabling Motion stops the discussion and can come back in the exact same format, no changes are allowed when Tabled.

Questions regarding the voting process

- **Q** - Will the minority be heard?
A - Yes
- **Q** - So only 2 minority are allowed to speak?
A – It is the same as a Motion, the only thing different is that a By-Laws Motion needs 2/3rds vote to pass, if it does not then the minority will still get to speak.
- **Q** - So 25 people vote for is simple majority but, it has not passed, those 25 can speak?
A - No those who voted against it.
- **Q** - But for this Motion needing 2/3rds to pass, would not we need whichever who did not get the vote?
A - Currently the process is that it is a 2/3rds vote to pass, the minority opinion is still the minority opinion, it is those who are on the losing side.

30 seconds silence

1st Vote 32-6-10 18n07/18-06 Motion

48/48 voting members present

Minority Opinion:

- There was a comment about more than 9 Board members being in the last BOT ABM meeting, I never said there would be more than 9 BOT members in the room and we are not other corporations, we are a corporation of addicts.
- My objection to this Motion is not that we cannot have a special meeting, it is that we are incorporating the special meeting into the By-Law that does not already exist, and the BOT already has the ability to elect somebody for a partial term. I have an objection with this being part of the By-Laws.
- **Point of Clarification:** Does the CCC Chair agree that nothing in this Amendment allows the BOT to elect a Trustee for a 3-year term whether it be at an Annual or special meeting?
A – Correct.

30 seconds of silence

2nd Vote 31-11-6 18n07/18-06 Motion

48 voting members present

Motion did not pass by a 2/3rds vote; this Motion is closed for this ABM and is removed from the ABM Agenda.

18n08/18-07 Item for Discussion: The Conference Healthy Relationship Committee has drafted a pamphlet for the Fellowship's review and comments as an IFD. The pamphlet title is "The Gift of No Contact." (Draft literature #049 in the Conference Literature Committee. Draft Attached.)

Committee Comments: CLC approved this draft (CLC #049).

20 minutes allocated for discussion of this IFD with statements at one minute or less.

- This is a really good document, it deals with what is no contact and the pain of having no contact, any edits made to this should be focusing on the positive healing effects of having no contact.
- On page 229, it has a positive message; on page 231 Tools for No Contact and on page 232 Suggestions, my suggestion is to see the *Sponsorship* pamphlet.
- I think it is a valuable and useful resource and I agree with what has been said, there needs to be more about how there can be short pain relief with having short contact and also the benefits of having no contacts.
- Is it possible of making a point of if your qualifier is your parent and you have to have no contact with a parent for a while and how to deal with that? No Contact is a huge gift.
- I like this topic, it opens with 11 Questions and I do not like feeling interrogated so I like hearing experience, strength and hope so short sentences.
- Loved this a lot, the Summary and Benefits of No Contact starting on page 236 could go at the top and then Questions to leave the reader with like what does no contact mean to me?
- I have been able to utilize this piece of literature, I appreciate the comments about withdrawal, and I saw something in there where you can apply it to family.
- It takes a little too long into the pamphlet about why no contact is important which I think it should be more towards the beginning, I agree with adding things about family.
- I like this a lot, I would like to caution the Committee to be a little less absolute, to use more like “it can lead” is a little bit ambiguous.
- Very grateful for this pamphlet, no contact is often hard to explain sometimes, it is very important to include things about having no contact with family members, it is great this exists.
- I am wondering if it would be possible to be a booklet rather than a pamphlet so it can include more member experiences.
- It might be great to have a CLC style manual, kind of like define terms such as the term “tool”.

This IFD 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.

Session ended with housekeeping and announcements.
Reconvene 3:45pm.

Thursday August 2, 2018 - 3:45pm

- Facilitator – Nancy G.
- Assistant Facilitator – Irv B.
- Backup Facilitator – P.A. K.
- Time keepers – Mona E. and Cory F.
- Spiritual reminder – Nora B.
- Vote Counters – Carol S. and Christina H.

The count is **46/48 voting members are present** and there is a quorum (39).
Announcement of the Question of the Day for *the Journal*

18n09/18-08 Item for Discussion: To explore the process, impact and associated costs - and present options for potentially revising the S.L.A.A. organizational and service structure in terms of geographical areas and boundaries.

Committee Comments: None

20 minutes allocated for discussion of this IFD with statements at one minute or less.

- F.W.S. might be telling Groups or Intergroups how they have to structure and how and where they have to list their meetings.
- I am unclear of the intention of this IFD, I think in other countries it happens regionally, I would worry that Lone Groups desire to be independent will be ignored, I would like clarification on the intention of this IFD.
- I learned this week that there are not just Intergroups; I use the F.W.S. website to find a meeting when I am on vacation and if there was a meeting an hour from where I was I never knew about it.
- I am unclear about the intention of this IFD, what we have done in other Fellowships is create a peak map where you enter your zip code and it will tell you the 10 closest meeting from where you are at.
- My concerns are what does this do to contributions? Is it still 60/40 or 50/30/20, the most important is service participation which my Intergroup struggles with, some meetings are more staffed than others, if you enter a 3rd level of service how would that work?
- I find the district model confusing in AA; I'm concerned S.L.A.A. being small and creating that confusion, Intergroups that are smaller may have more trouble with having a district.
- There is confusion with this IFD and it is because there is a huge knot, there are multiple layers to this, we can make areas but, the problems will still be there, we are grasping for the Conference to just begin a conversation about this, we cannot make Groups or Intergroups do anything.
- I do not really understand the proposed structure, I found it difficult to find a meeting, if I was a newcomer I just would not understand what this is talking about.
- This IFD is really trying to start a discussion about how we give our information out; we will have areas where there are districts.
- It is my understanding that the AA structure that it came out of is a pre-internet time when the Intergroup would list all the meetings in their area in a booklet. Now, it has changed; we now have the world service list meetings and in another Fellowship where I spend time answering phones for the local Intergroup and our website is down so we have been directing people to our world service website which lists every meeting and it has a searchable map where you enter your zip code and it shows you all the meetings in a certain amount of miles which I do not know if that is something we can adopt.
- We need to do something and we need to look at the AA way.
- I think about when I came to S.L.A.A. there were 3 women meetings and that was in 2001 so now we have over 42 meetings, there are over 100 meetings for AA in Houston and that specific way of doing that is that we have to be a lot bigger but, we need to talk about this.
- The priority is the ease in which newcomers can find meetings, there's easier and softer ways to achieve that which we should explore, one problem we have in our area is public outreach, if expanding our service structure is what we need to do then that is what we should do.
- At the Intergroup level we look at the meetings we have, I am starting to get an idea of where my Intergroups lie in my state, there is an order to a chaos in AA and it is cool that we are projecting what S.L.A.A. will be like when we get to that level.
- Ideally, I would love to see an interactive map with zip code lookups but one of the problems is that we would be taking the Group listings from an Intergroup which they provide the meeting list.

This IFD 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.

Announcement from the CCC Chair: We have finished early but we would like to bring up three (3) topics for discussion/presentations.

1. Request by the CLC for the Co-Chair at this ABM to give a presentation tomorrow morning about literature because of so many questions that have been asked.
2. Re-entry: What happens when you leave the ABM? It is a shock to leave this Conference and important to use self-care afterwards.

3. **Conference/Delegate Duties after the ABM**

Many of you want to know what to do after you leave the ABM, see *Chapter Four: After the ABM* on page 47 of the CSM regarding the duties of the Delegate to report to his/her Intergroup, Group or Lone Group. It is important to prepare a written report. A summary of the IFDs and Motions will be distributed at the last General Assembly on Friday and posted on the website. Tell your Intergroup/Groups about what decisions were made at the ABM. After the last General Assembly there will be a final meeting with the new and old Chairs and will include a New Chairs Orientation. Going to the ABM is a great experience and after the ABM it seems we are inspired to do more service. Some Intergroups produce a newsletter.

- Resources are available for Delegate reports to their local Intergroup; e.g. other Delegates, Conference Committees, F.W.S. Staff, the BOT and CCC.
- *Conference Committee Work* page 48 details what the requirements are between meetings, most meet on a monthly basis, a new Chair and Vice Chair will be elected and/or confirmed, will need access to the Google Group, and help is available for phone calls using FreeConferenceCall.com.
- Examples of outcomes: New S.L.A.A. literature, a more diverse community, new methods of doing business, *the Journal* is coming up on 30th year anniversary, organizing and facilitating the ABM, submitting IFDs and Motions; more discussion about this during tomorrow's General Assembly.
- *Conference Committee Accountability* page 49: People rely on us to follow through, we ask that Committee members delegate activities, there will be Conference Chair calls which are normally 2 hours, and the Board Liaison is a resource. The *Conflict Resolution Process* is also part of Conference Committees work page 49.
- *Conference Committee Support by Intergroups/Lone Groups and Financial Support* are on page 51: \$126/\$3000 used since last year which is low.
- *How Business is Conducted and Completed between ABMs* page 52: Occasionally we have to have a special meeting and there is a process about if and when it happens.

Session ended with housekeeping.

Announcements: Three (3) Speakers tonight at 7pm sponsored by the San Antonio Intergroup.

Next General Assembly will have an opportunity to meet the Board candidates.

Reconvene at 5pm.

Thursday August 2, 2018 - 5:00pm

BOT Nominees - Getting to Know the Candidates and Tradition 4

- Facilitator – Anne K.
- Assistant Facilitator – Kara B.
- Backup Facilitator – Harold K.
- Time keepers – Mona E. and Cory F.
- Spiritual reminder – Nora B.
- Vote Counters – Carol S. and Christina H.

The count is **45/48 voting members are present** and there is a quorum (39).

Announcement of the Question of the Day for *the Journal*

Session opened with a **Moment of Silence** and the **Serenity Prayer**.

BOT Nominees - Getting to Know the Candidates

- **Nancy G.:** I have been involved with S.L.A.A. for about 11 ½ years, I have been involved in about five 12 Step programs however, S.L.A.A. is my home community. I have attended the ABM as a Delegate for the North County, San Diego Intergroup 4 times. I have been on the BOT for about a year and a half. It has been a powerful learning experience to be part of the ABM. I am the firstborn of 3 daughters and born in Fort Worth, TX and grew up in New Mexico. After my divorce I moved back to Texas then went to California where I had my greatest professional development in community service. I have a strong commitment to my family.
- **Ned J. (Up for confirmation):** I came from a very violent and criminal family background which has been a long healing process. Went to the Founders meeting of S.L.A.A. back in Newton, MA. About 3 years into the program I met my current husband and stopped going to S.L.A.A. and therapy. The next 17 years would take me to the darkest corners of my life. I put myself back in treatment after an affair in 2010.
- **P.A. K.:** I lived in the Bronx, NY where I was born and raised. I had a physically abusive upbringing. I moved to the California for 9 years. I was acting out majorly besides doing drugs and drinking alcohol. I decided to go to Houston, TX after a group of friends did an intervention and 20 years later on 9/9/99 I got pulled over for a DWI and that is my sobriety date in AA. I started going to S.L.A.A. after 9 months being in AA because a therapist said I was a sex and love addict. Service has kept me sober and it has contributed to who I am today. I am able to have boundaries and I can say “no”. I am worth something and I have self-love because of this program. Every level of service has gotten me here to all of you. I am chair of the CAC and I have been a Delegate 4 times. I have been in S.L.A.A. for 17 years.
- **Jay G.:** I rotated off my Conference service in 2016-2017 and I was asked to come back this year due to the original Delegate representing my Intergroup needing to step away due to a family emergency. In one of my first sessions with my therapist she acknowledged that I was a sex addict and then I started going to meetings. I currently attend 3 meetings a week and I made a commitment to actively attend the meetings. I realize that my acting out was sexually and I am fundamentally a love addict. My service has not discontinued since 2015, I have been on Conference Committee including Vice Chair of the Conference Charter Committee. I would not be sober without service.

Speaking on Tradition 4

- **Jay G.:** What we do in the rooms affects everybody else in the room. Looking at the last half of that Tradition at a Group level we have an obligation to take into account that what we are doing will affect another group. Whatever a Group decides we realize that would have an effect on every other meeting in our area while they were autonomous; we had the ability to desire that we would take the meeting list. Where the line is drawn may be gray. I am there to be sober and for myself.
- **P.A. K.:** When I found out what autonomous was I thought it was neat you can do your own thing. I learned about the group conscience and I have been to places where the group conscience was going to be chairs throwing. It is important to have consistency in meetings, when something goes off the beam it starts deteriorating. Autonomy is a good thing and it is one of my favorite Traditions and I like that it is used.
- **Ned J.:** I can boil this down to 2 words: freedom and responsibility. Go forward but, do it responsible. For me personally I have experienced numerous types of meetings. There are certain precepts/core documents that are sacred and should not be re-written such as the 12 Traditions. Every group should serve everybody in their constituency. I like diversity and it is possible that too many rules could actually stop an addict from finding peace of mind.

- **Nancy G.:** My freedom ends where yours begins and your freedom ends where mine begins. In this Tradition I find values of freedom. Control seems like a negative word but, we have agreed upon limits. I did experience the positives of the Traditions where I found safety, predictability, rituals, my voice, wonderful stories so the rooms became those safe places for me where I can begin to grow and heal. My first 6 years I was about my own healing and enjoyed what the Traditions were. What I experience in this Tradition is the personal freedom, responsibility, how my power to express myself affects other people to do no harm, and be humble. I can learn from others and better decisions are made when more people are involved in the process.

Questions for the Candidates

Jay G.: How will you handle conflict among the other Board Members in a manner that disagrees but, not disagreeable?

- I will handle it like my adult life on being on a Bank Board, I got along well even when we disagreed. I have been on non-profit and profit Boards. I have been effective and I will do my best to apply the tools I learned from my past experience.

All Candidates: What do you see is the single biggest problem facing F.W.S. or BOT? What's your vision on how that problem can be adequately and sufficiently?

- **Nancy G.:** There is so much inter-relatedness in our Fellowship. Our biggest challenge is still reaching out to the addict who still suffers. I see money as an issue which I think will fall into place once our membership has grown and I see sponsorship as an issue and if we strengthen our service culture we can grow our Fellowship.
- **Ned J.:** I am not sure if there is a single problem, I can list a few concerns: Creating a 12 Step Fellowship that is easily approachable, long term financial viability, transparency of the BOT; there is a lot there. I think at the top there are many issues such as structure.
- **P.A. K.:** Some of the things I see are financial issues which comes with economy and other things we face in the world today. What would really help is teamwork, compromising, listening. I think patience is really important and I learned that in the CAC.
- **Jay G.:** I have been thinking about finances, fundraising is down which affects what we can do, it affects whether we can give people scholarships to come to the ABM, it affects whether we can give discounts, and it affects everything. Lack of transparency from the BOT as well, those 2 things are related.

All Candidates: What concerns do you have about completing your potential term? What can you do to avoid it?

- **P.A. K.:** When I start something, I want to keep going with it. I think fear is one of the biggest things I face when I do leadership in service. I need to slow down with it and it will work out.
- **Ned J.:** I finish what I start. With my priorities in my personal life unless something tragic happened where I had to re-evaluate my priorities and cannot serve. I would be dishonest if I did not say that.
- **Jay G.:** I am committed to the term and the best way to ensure that is self-care.
- **Nancy G.:** I take Committees very seriously, I think for me it is taking it one day at a time, self-care, keeping my life in balance.

All Candidates: What actions can you take to have more people represented at the ABM? Would you feel that it would be more important over the history of our By-Laws? Would you be willing to change things to allow more voices to be heard?

- **Jay G.:** We should try everything or at least discuss it. The desire to have geographic diversity as far as where we have ABMs, we should at least explore how technology can help with the financial component, I think more is possible than what we're doing but, we have to want it and plan for it.
- **P.A. K.:** It does need to be extended over to Europe, I think a lot of things are missed when you cannot come to the ABM, I know technology can help with the spreading of this event so more can attend, it would be great to have an ABM in Europe.

- **Ned J.:** Maybe we can have an International Development Committee to find ways to reach out to more people, get input on what needs to be met.
- **Nancy G.:** I have been at ABMs with people from different countries; if we could have regular and ongoing participation would be great, wonderful things happen with technology which can be a starting point.

Final Thoughts

- **P.A. K.:** I thought about something, maybe we can have a big screen with Conference calls for those overseas who cannot physically attend the ABM. Thank you for the opportunity.
- **Ned J.:** Nothing further.
- **Nancy G.:** I would like to encourage each of you to think of a journey toward the BOT, it can start easily by serving on Board Committees. What I have experienced is that I have had a lot of support
- **Jay G.:** I hope that if I am elected that each of you will feel free and often contact me and tell me what is not working and what is working and do more of.

Session ended with housekeeping.

Announcements: Reminder that doors lock at 8AM tomorrow morning for meeting.

Session is adjourned and will reconvene Friday morning.

Friday August 3, 2018

After an evening of guest speakers organized by the San Antonio Intergroup and breakfast the General Assembly began.

Friday August 3, 2018 – 8am sharp

BOT Elections

- Facilitator – Seth S.
- Assistant Facilitator – Mathilde M.
- Backup Facilitator – Rick S.

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

- 12 Steps – Mathilde M. (spoken in French)
- 12 Traditions - Sam E.
- 12 Concepts – Jeff C.

There are **47/48 voting members present** and there is a quorum (39).

Announcement of the Question of the Day for *the Journal*.

The BDC Chair, Rich K. indicated that there are 47 ballots and 1 absentee ballot; the selections are 0, 1, 2 or 3 candidates which are the 3 nominees. At the bottom of the ballot is the confirmation of Ned J. After the ballots have been collected they will be counted and we will have the results.

The following have volunteered in the election as:

- Ballot Counter – Kara B.
- Ballot Counter – Marc S.
- 1st Year Delegate as an observer – Nora B.
- Tabulator of the ballots - All

Question regarding the voting process

Q - Even though there are so many open slots, can we choose not to check the box if we do not have confidence in someone?

A - You can choose not to check a box.

48 ballots have been collected. The BDC Chair and volunteers left the room to count the ballots.

Conference Literature Committee (CLC) Presentation: Co-Chair Dave G.

- Literature sales are critical to our Fellowship and it is our source of our major income.
- Ron G. became the Chair back in March and I became Co-Chair in June.
- We created 3 work groups within the CLC: Planning, Writing and Administrative.
- The Writing Group facilitates all literature,
- Administrative prepares the agenda and facilitates the monthly phone meeting and represents the CLC at the bi-monthly Chair Calls.
- Current writing projects: preparing the 2 IFDs for this ABM and the 12 Concepts
- We will assist the BOT with the Meditation Book and Anorexia 4-5-6-7,
- Assisting the CDC with the Diversity Statement
- H.O.W. literature from the UK
- Translating a German pamphlet about Internet Pornography Addiction into English.
- There are 4 stories for the Stories Book project that was brought to the ABM a few years ago.
- The 50th Anniversary of the Basic Text is on our project list too, open to suggestions too.
- From the administrative perspective, we try to organize all the folders such as CLC #1, etc. We might contract with the F.W.S. Office to organize all this literature that we have previously worked on and organize it by either finishing this literature or do nothing with it all.
- We want to collaborate with any other Conference Committees creating literature.

Questions/Comments

- **Q** - Can the ABM provide the list of your projects from this presentation so that the Conference Committees can connect and collaborate?

A – Yes, I can provide the slides to the webmaster to publish for the Fellowship to see.

C – With regards to translating the German pamphlet, we tried with the Spanish literature that was translated in the 1990s back in 2010/2011 by formatting the 9 Spanish pamphlets; they did not sell so the office gives them away now. We have a Spanish Basic Text floating around out there and the BOT formed a task force to translate without a professional translator because it was expensive. My concern is that *Anorexia 1-2-3* was originally distributed in Spanish, Italian and Portuguese, it is difficult to take draft literature, translate it into another language and then have it Conference approved and then have to re-translate it again which has caused problems with the distribution of draft literature in the past. Finally, it is going to be expensive to translate something from German to English and then will other countries come and request translation and the cost of that.

A- I probably misspoke in the presentation, there is a pamphlet in German that is about the subject of Internet Pornography, and the CLC is taking that pamphlet and translating it into English. As for the Spanish, I do not know where other people are, I sponsored 2 people whose primary language is Spanish so I might ask them for their help in translating.

- **Q** - Of the literature that has been approved at this Conference, is that something that the CLC actively participates in?

A - No, at this point we do have non-members on the BOC. The BOC has been doing the primary editing for publication after Conference approval.

BOT Election Results

- Ned J. has been confirmed as a member of the BOT with a term ending in 2020.
- Nancy G. and P.A. K. have been elected to the BOT for terms ending in 2021.

Announcement: Candidates can call the F.W.S. Office to see what was their vote count.

CLC Presentation Questions/Comments Continued

C - I believe it is a priority that we still reach out to the addict who still suffers that do not speak English.

A - We do have a translation Committee and we will collaborate with them as needed.

- **Q** - I found one or two people who speak Spanish that can help with the translating and when I spoke to one of these individuals she said there is no longer a Committee that does translating or that she tried to go on a call with this group and there was nobody there, I am not sure.

A - I have all the history on the Board Task Force, there was a lot of enthusiasm after last year's ABM, the Spanish Basic Text is available in Latin America, Spain, etc. and I have that copy of it. However, I love translations and the last thing I want to do is discourage anybody from doing them. Germany was the first country to translate the Basic Text plus ton of literature; they have a translation of a subject that we have to think about.

A - Your concern is that we do not have adequate funds to translate?

- **Q** - It is about subject matter, is it something that the Conference wants?

A - I believe that program would benefit from an English translation about internet pornography.

- **Q** - Is there not a coordinating entity anywhere else in the world that can help us or are we the only ones that are providing literature for the whole worldwide Fellowship?

A - I believe a lot of the other nations have created their own literature that is not Conference approved, please correct me.

C - Any country can translate any Core Document without Conference approval.

C - I have a comment from my Intergroup about the color compliance of the American Disabilities Act (ADA) which are the same colors that are on our pamphlets which caught me off guard.

A - It is definitely catching me off guard but, now that I am aware of it we will make sure that we comply with ADA.

C - There was a suggestion that it was not in compliance.

C - I was reading the pamphlet, some of them are in orange, gray and they are hard to read and we are; wondering why it is not in black text?

Re-Entry Presentation by Gabriel G.

I am here to support you with my experience, strength and hope. I am here to talk about re-entry which is something that meant a lot to me. I know in past ABMs it got left off to the side because of all the business that goes on. On a personal note, I am the Mentorship Chair which is a sub-Committee of the CCC so I hope that new Delegates had an opportunity to connect with your mentor which is a returning Delegate. I want to offer some suggestions for when you go home:

- Be mindful of where you have been, where you are going to and to be aware of your surroundings
- Connecting with your sponsor before you get home, making sure that you are present for your meetings/home groups
- Be gentle with yourself
- Remember the tools in the program like the Serenity Prayer
- Find a service sponsor, it has helped me and I use them as a resource
- When you get home do not jump into service right away, take some time for yourself and recharge, be with people who know and understand you

- Be willing to help other people, keep in contact with them
- Be a resource for those around you and reach out to those whom you met and ask for help.
- Bottom line is be kind to yourself, honor yourself, cherish yourself, be grateful that you completed this week.

Questions/Comments

- **Q** - The Core Documents can be translated without Conference approval, what about draft literature?

A - No

C - The Conference Sponsorship Committee has a draft that circulated about what is a service sponsor also when I was a new Delegate the suggestion I received was to get 3 phone numbers at the ABM so I give that suggestion. I appreciate your words Gabriel.

C - Coming home after this event which is full of energy, my husband's experience when I am away is different but, my own is having to temporize that enthusiasm at home and I have had to remind myself that I have been away for a while and my husband's priority is not necessarily mine and open my heart to what's been going on in his life while I have been away.

C - Thank you Gabriel for your specific words. It was very centering and a good definition about what has been going on.

C - This experience is like climbing Mt. Everest and we have to use our tools as we descend the mountain. One of which I like is to write down my resentments, disappointments and fears and then throw it away. Then write down the recovery tools you want to use and keep it.

C - I helped organize the IRC a couple of years ago, when it was over I felt like I had nothing to do. I went through 2 weeks of not being stable, self-care was huge for me. I was going through a period of grief after the IRC. Take care of yourself.

C - I want to give a different perspective; even for staff we have a bounce after this is over. I am not going to lie this is a lot of work but, even after this is over there is a reason why the office is closed for a few days because we have an emotional bounce so self-care is important and we are here to talk if you need it.

C - This has been a fantastic experience; I want to thank everybody who had anything to do with preparation and planning. I appreciate Dave's presentation today. I have had a personal checklist for myself of which one is my sleep schedule and exercise program to return to those.

C - This experience has been a spiritual awakening. It is a very accepting emotional thing. I am scared to come back to ABM next year because this year was smooth and it was run so well, spiritually connected and I am afraid it's an anomaly.

C - I was advised before I came here to read and study everything. As a Delegate it is my job to take back what I learned so I have taken a ton of notes. It is not just the work; it is absorbing all of you into my life.

Session ended with housekeeping

The F.W.S. Store is open till 2:15pm.

F.W.S. Office will be closed until Thursday August 9 and shipping will resume.

Session adjourned until afternoon session at 2:15pm.

Friday August 3, 2018 2:15pm

Final General Assembly

- Facilitator – Rita H.
- Assistant Facilitator – Rich K.
- Backup Facilitator – Marc S.
- Time keepers – Chris M. and Kirsten C.
- Spiritual reminder – Nora B.

Session opened with the Serenity Prayer.

There are **41/48 voting members present** and there is a quorum (39).

New BOT Chair Report - Rich K.

Officers

- Rich K. - President and Treasurer of the Corporation
- Bob G. - Secretary of the Corporation

Board Committee Chairs

- BDC - Bob G.
- BFC - Rich K.
- BFSC - Ned J.
- BHRPC - Nancy G.
- BOC - Earl D.
- BPMC - Ashly B.

Board Liaisons to Conference Committees will be announced before the ABM closes.

Conference Committee Reports

1. **CAC** – P.A. K. (Designated representative): A new Chair has not been selected and the Vice-Chair is not present. We did not have too many people coming into the CAC but, still exciting projects. The 1992 Anorexia pamphlet will be updated. Anorexia Dating is something we are looking into so that will be interesting. Next meeting will be Sunday, August 26, 2018 at 1pm CT.
2. **CBC** – Philip W. (Designated representative): Barry B., Chair and we have no Vice-Chair. We have only 2 members. Due to the By-Laws Motion not passing this year that is one project we will not have this year. We normally review the By-Laws and work with other Committees to make sure everything is correct. We meet on the 3rd Sunday of every month at 3pm CT.
3. **CCC** – Jay G., Vice-Chair: Rita H., Chair. The CCC changed its mission statement for clarity at this ABM. We are responsible for the planning and facilitation of the ABC/M in cooperation with the BOT and F.W.S. Our projects are ongoing rather than progressive. We will address a new Chair and Vice Chair at our next meeting. Next meeting is September 2nd at 12:30pm ET; we meet the first Sunday of every month.
4. **CDC** – Christina H., Chair: No Vice-Chair. Our next meeting is Sunday, August 5, 2018 at 9am PT.
5. **CFC** – Marc S., Chair: Joe C., Vice-Chair. Next meeting will be in September and we meet the first Sunday of every month at 11am ET. Once we receive the budget requests we will gather those and put together a budget.
6. **CHRC** – Nora B. (Designated representative): Amalia, Chair and Mary Jane, Vice-Chair. We will select a new Chair and Vice-Chair at our next meeting where we will do elections. Next meeting will be Sunday, September 2nd and we meet on the first Sunday of every month at 11am CT.
7. **CHIC** – Earl D. (Designated representative): CHIC wishes to merge with the CPIC.
8. **CICC** – Seth S., Chair, Jeff C., Vice-Chair. Next meeting will be Sunday, September 16 at 2pm ET and we meet the 3rd Sunday of every month.
9. **CJC** – Carol S. (Designated representative): Lisa C., Chair, no Vice-Chair. Next meeting will be Saturday, September 1 at 10am PT.
10. **CLC** – Carol S. (Designated representative): Dave G., Co-Chair, Ron G., Co-Chair and Lee W., Vice-Chair. Next meeting is Saturday, August 25 at 9am PT and we meet the 4th Saturday of every month.
11. **CMRC** – Mona E., Chair: Nora B., Vice-Chair. We have 9 members. Next meeting will be Sunday, September 9 at 9am PT/12pm ET and we meet the 2nd Sunday of every month.

12. **CPIC** – Earl D. (Designated representative): Next meeting is Sunday, August 19 at 2pm ET. We meet on the 3rd Sunday of every month. CPIC would like to merge with CHIC.
13. **CSC** – Anne K. (Designated representative): We would like to merge with the Sponsorship Committee which we are starting that process.
14. **CSPC** – Jaclyn P. (Designated representative): Anne K., Chair and no Vice-Chair selected. We will elect a new Vice-Chair at our next meeting. We have 3 new members. Next meeting will be Monday, August 20 at 9pm ET.
15. **CSTCC** – Christina H. (Acting Chair): Dave, Chair. We will select a new Chair and Vice-Chair at the next meeting. Next meeting will be Sunday, August 26 at 1pm PT. We meet the last Sunday of every month.
16. **CTIOC** – Ivo P. (Designated representative): Daniel G., Chair and Carole M., Vice-Chair. Next meeting will be Sunday, August 26 at 8am ET. We meet the 4th Sunday of every month.

Announcement from CCC Chair - Rita H.: We are preparing the *Summary of the ABM Agenda* (IFDs and Motions) and there were two (2) last minute changes which Philip is working on. We will also be handing out the Submitter Key so you know who submitted the IFDs and Motions. We do not identify the Submitter in the spirit of anonymity. There were 9 out of 16 Committees that provided the 3 copies and if you have them give them to Hector for printing.

Conference Committee Reports: How much money do you want and what are your projects?

1. **CTIOC** – Ivo P. (Designated representative): We ask for \$400 and we're working on many translations project.
2. **CSTCC** – Christina H. (Acting Chair): We ask for \$100 just because we may have issues for overages for minutes or some web stuff and the \$100 is just to cover our bases.
3. **CSPC** – Jaclyn P. (Designated representative): We ask for \$100. The 4 projects we have going on is the draft materials, outreach and communication with responding to emails and phone calls, focus on sponsorship telephone meeting and merging of the CSC with the CSPC.
4. **CSC** – Anne K. (Designated representative): We hope to complete the merger with the CSPC and pick a new name.
5. **CPIC** – Earl D. (Designated representative): We put the CPIC and CHIC together and we came up with \$2060. There are 2 projects: CHIC sub-Committee which is looking for staff time from the F.W.S. Office and sending the Basic Text to prisons in North America and for the CPIC is for communication such as website.
6. **CMRC** – Mona E., Chair: We are asking for a budget of \$250. Our first project is an information gathering where we want to compile the experience, strength and hope of Intergroups/Groups and how they keep their members engaged.
7. **CLC** – Carol S. (Designated representative): We ask for \$1,200 and our current projects are the 12 x 12 book, Stories Work group and discussing putting together audio stories. We are helping with the H.O.W. documents to be CLC approved and an IFD for next year, we are helping with the 2 IFDs ("Gift of No Contact" and "12 Concepts") this year to move on to Motions next year, we are organizing the projects on the CLC Google folder because there is a lot.
8. **CJC** – Carol S. (Designated representative): No money request. The projects include getting *the Journal* out on time and working on a Spiritual Focus booklet.
9. **CICC** – Seth S., Chair: We have a budget of \$360 and were finalizing the work we have been doing on creating a forum so that Intergroups can communicate with each other and our next project is to update the Intergroup database.
10. **CHIC** – Earl D. (Designated representative): Money was requested under CPIC because CHIC and CPIC are going to merge. We are working on paying for the hosting for the IFF which is an organization of S.L.A.A., S.C.A., C.O.S.A. and S.R.A.

11. **CHRC** – Nora B. (Designated representative): We are requesting \$100 to help with writing and printing supplies. A couple of writing project which is the draft literature The Gift of No Contact and Ending a Relationship in a Healthy Manner.
12. **CFC** – Marc S., Chair: We are requesting \$50 for international phone costs, \$150 for the pamphlet which last year was a bookmark and this pamphlet is where spirituality and money meet in a healthy way, \$500 prudent reserve so if any of you need additional funds we have some cushion to give extra money if needed for projects.
13. **CDC** – Christina H., Chair: We have an idea of a budget but, we are not formally submitting until our meeting on Sunday. Progress of drafting a Diversity Statement for Conference approval and brought as a potential IFD, Cultural Competency and/or Diversity and Sensitivity Training presented as an idea for the BOT or the F.W.S. Staff. 12 Core Cultural Competency Pamphlet and Women’s Positive Body Image meeting which has started in Los Angeles which can be introduced to our Fellowship. We potentially need a budget to outreach in the community to have more meetings.
14. **CCC** – Jay G., Vice-Chair: No money request, our main financial cost is sending the CCC Chair to the ABM and that is handled outside the Conference Committee budget process. Projects were working on organizing the Chairs Calls and related activities.
15. **CBC** – Philip W. (Designated representative): No money request. Our project is ongoing which is reviewing the By-Laws.
16. **CAC** – P.A. K. (Designated representative): We are requesting \$300: \$150 for the Anorexia 8 & 9 and \$150 for Anorexia 10, 11 & 12 so we can make flyers and pass them around the country.

Motion to Confirm 16 Conference Committees and Submitted Reports (Voice Vote).

All those in favor say “aye” - All; opposed say “nay” - None.

Motion Passed

Announcements

- The BOT Chair announced that there has been no BOT decision at this point about the next ABM dates and location; once decision has been reached it will be announced to the Fellowship.
- Conference Committee Chair Meeting at 3:45pm-5:00pm in this room.
- Anybody opposed to moving the meeting to 3:30pm None
- Board Meeting will also be at 3:30pm.

Motion to Close the 2018 ABC/M by Philip W. and Rich K. (Voice Vote)

All those in favor say “aye” - All; opposed say “nay” - None.

Motion passes and the 2018 ABC/M is closed.