

MINUTES
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
FELLOWSHIP-WIDE SERVICES, S.L.A.A.
JULY 15-17, 1994
BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY, WALTHAM, MA

General Assembly I - Opening Address, Introductions of Board and Delegates, Discussion of Election Process and Committee Functions
July 15th, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

The opening address and welcome was given by Vic, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees. Board members and staff were introduced. Bill V. of California was introduced as the Moderator. Richard Mac, of New England Intergroup, reviewed the choices for Conference process with the delegates (community process vs. Roberts Rules). Delegates introduced themselves and shared their hopes for the Conference.

One of the Board members led a sobriety countdown, with attendees celebrating as few as 3 months and as many as 10 years sobriety standing up and receiving acknowledgement. Logistics for the weekend, i.e. housing, food, registration, were reviewed by Jacquie T. Jacquie introduced the Conference volunteers.

A MOTION to proceed with the Interactive Process passed by a vote of 35 in favor to 1 opposed.

Announcements were made by Vic about Board of Trustee nominations.

9 - 9:30 p.m.

Members with past experience serving on Conference Committees shared their experience with delegates about what it is like to serve in this capacity. Sign-up sheets were made for those who wanted to sign up for a Committee to work with. The lists were posted in different areas of the room and people interested in those committees talked to the others who were interested and signed up.

The large group readjourned. Volunteers came forward to keep time and to write on flip charts. After a short break at 9:30 p.m., there was discussion about the schedule of the Conference, and whether too much time was scheduled for Committee Meetings.

General Assembly II

A session of COMMUNITY PROBLEM SOLVING was held.

Richard Mac was the facilitator. The topic was: What is the problem with the agenda?

Some of the issues with the agenda were:

- 1) Spend more time on issues and less in committees
- 2) Concern about the cost of the weekend; the desire to make progress on agenda issues
- 3) Issues raised in last night's meeting are not prioritized in committees

- 4) Address all issues of concern to delegate members
- 5) There needs to be an explanation of the process and purpose of the Conference

BRAINSTORMING followed. Some of the ideas were:

- 1) Rearrange the order of the schedule
- 2) Figure out which committees address the issues raised
- 3) Reduce committee time
- 4) Create new committees
- 5) Trust the process - deal with anxieties on an individual level

A schedule change was proposed as follows for the day:

8:45 - 9:30 Explanation of Process, Deal with Agenda Problem
9:45 - 11:15 General Session; Goals of A.B.M.
11:30 - 1:00 Committee Session I
1:00 - 2:00 Lunch
2:30 - 4:00 Committee Session II
4:15 - 5:30 Committee Reports, Motions, Votes
6:00 - 7:00 Dinner

The Conference voted unanimously to move forward with the above agenda changes.

A list was made of issues that the Conference wanted to see addressed as follows:

Decrease in money
Carrying the message
Inactive/ineffective committees
Unsober behavior in meetings
Lack of sponsorship
Promote interaction between groups and intergroups
Where are those with time?
Books/discounts
Education and support on sober relationships
Set agenda before the A.B.M.
Phone comm. - how to make it work?
Coordination with other fellowships
S.L.A.A. for lesbians
Organization throughout the year
Lack of attendance, support and service
Women in prison
Not a clear understanding of process
Felonious behavior/legal decisions
Keep A.B.M. energy going throughout the year
Withdrawal pamphlet
B.O.T. voting
F.W.S. should have bigger voice and more help
Lack of Traditions text

Lack of sobriety definition

Each person was asked to vote on three issues from the above list that they felt most needed to be covered during this year's A.B.M.

The top issues selected were, in order:

Topic 1 - Lack of Service (23)

Topic 2 - Lack of Money (15)

Topic 3 - Lack of Oldtimers (12)

Topic 4 - Carrying the Message to Newcomers (12)

Topic 5 - Education and Support for Sober Relationships (8)

The issues were then brought up and discussed in order.

Lack of Service - Ideas brought up included:

Get delegates involved

Create a mailing list

Get sponsees involved

People with sobriety need to set a personal example

There is no service work

A quarterly report from delegates

Make program relevant to newcomers

Need to work the Steps

Inadequate information for service volunteers to follow

Lack of feeling responsible

Lack of urgency

Service chips

Make program relevant to oldtimers

Make service a right, a privilege, an obligation, and mandatory

Lack of Money - Ideas brought up included:

Suggest two dollar contribution at meetings

Lack of responsibility

Reach out to newcomers

Each group sponsor a fund drive

More education to meetings regarding use of money

Increase sales of literature

Recommend anniversary donations

Reinstate bookstore discounts

Keep oldtimers coming

Increase contributions through explanation of what F.W.S. and
Intergroups do

Live within money available for regular functions, raise extra
money for special functions

The ideas raised for the remaining three topics above can be found
(in addition to the ideas on the first two topics) on sheets that
are attached.

A vote was taken on a choice of four ways of dealing with the six top issue areas: (See top of page 3 for the six top issues)

The choices were to:

- 1) Form one committee to deal with each issue (six groups)
- 2) Use ten committees (existing) to solve six problems
- 3) Have a committee for topic one, a committee for topic two, have a committee to deal with topics three and five, and a committee to deal with topics four and six.
- 4) Have a committee to deal with topic four, one to deal with topics one and two, and one to deal with topics three, five and six.

A vote was taken on which way to deal with the issues and the first choice option was selected - one committee for each issue (six groups). (There were thirteen votes for choice one, one vote for choice two, eight votes for choice three, and zero votes for choice four.)

The six committees broke up to meet on each of the six topics.

4:50 P.M.: The committees returned and each committee gave a three minute report.

(The committees were asked to give Jacquie a summary of their work to be mailed out to all delegates, however, this did not happen.)

It was brought up that a decision needed to be made regarding whether these six new committees will take the place of the ten existing committees, and if so, what will happen to the work that the other committees did?

It was decided that each existing committee will be named (the ten existing plus the six new) and the Conference will vote on whether to keep them active or not. This process occurred. Three committees were deleted. They were the Intergroup Communications Committee, the Conference Public Information Committee, and the Conference Traditions Committee. Thirteen committees remain for the coming year.

LACK OF SERVICE

- Activities that stimulate instead of simplify service
- Step work
- Make program relevant to old timers
- Sponsorship Day
- Lack of urgency
- More interaction between
- Topic service meeting
- Service chips
- Service as responsibility
- Sponsees to be involved
- Delegates involved
- Mailing list
- Quarterly report from delegates
- Personal example - enthusiasm
- More people at meetings - outreach
- Traditions (lack of)

LACK OF MONEY

- More social events to raise funds
- Special functions/special monies
- Get more people into meetings
- More education to meetings re: money
- Recommend acknowledging anniversary w/donation
- Retreats/seminars
- Contribution increases through explanation of what FWS and Intergroups do
- Personal example/\$2.00 suggestion
- Tradition Seven fund drive
- Reducing literature costs to increase sales
- Lack of members/old timers
- Live within means

LACK OF PEOPLE WITH TIME (OLD TIMERS)

- Support relationship
- Written material focused on long time recovery
- How to approach those with time
- Don't judge on evolving bottom lines
- Quarterly reunion with new people
- Call them from old phone list/welcome them back
- Create meeting format for old timers
- How to personally approach others for support
- Develop a relocation packet
- Literature for sober relationships/stories from the Book; followup
- Education on relapse prevention
- Adopt-A-Meeting Program
- Promote use of Steps and Traditions in everyday use of program

EDUCATE AND SUPPORT SOBER RELATIONSHIPS

- Establish couples meeting
- Sponsorship
- Develop meeting format
- Have it as committee topic
- Recovery being single/recovery for partners
- Acceptance of evolving relationships
- Literature around healthy relationships
- Write a book on evolving relationships
- SLAA summit meetings?
- Pamphlet on terminology
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CARRYING THE MESSAGE

- Meetings listed in telephone books, newspapers
- Therapists get our info
- Pamphlets at libraries and universities
- Encourage personal commitment to newcomers
- Telephone listings should say: "SEX AND LOVE ADDICTS"
- Literature available at HIV test centers
- Difference between outreach/newcomers
- Addictions Fair
- Outreach to psych hospitals
- Open to public speaker meeting.
- Over Internet
- Talk shows
- Cover letter to social service agencies to let them know we exist
- Discount on books
- Work the steps
- Packet to every SLAA member to spread the word
- Find new ways to carry message to those who don't read or may live in stressed areas

SPONSORSHIP

- Organize seminars/workshops to talk about
- Get the old timers back
- Allow people to recognize themselves at meetings
- People willing to sponsor reach out to other cities
- Meetings well stocked with sponsorship pamphlets/free
- Designate open meetings as sponsorship mtgs.
- Cartoon published in Journal; one issue devoted to sponsorship
- Wallpaper meeting room
- Introduce temporary sponsors
- Recognize ourselves as sponsors
- Encourage people to sponsor
- Have people in meetings wear ribbons
- Make commitment to speak of own sponsor/sponsee relationship
- Sponsorship chips
- Encourage mtgs. to have diversity in format
- Sponsorship chapter in Big Book