

**The Augustine Fellowship,
Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous,
Fellowship-Wide Services, Inc.**

2010 Annual Business Conference/Meeting

August 10-13, 2010
Hilton San Antonio Airport
611 N.W. Loop 410
San Antonio, TX 78216

Conference Theme: The 8th Tradition; *“S.L.A.A. should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.” (S.L.A.A. Basic Text)*

Abbreviations you need to know:

Board of Trustees	(BOT)	Intergroup Communication	(CICC)
Higher Power	(HP)	Internet	(CIC)
Annual Business Conference/Meeting	(ABC/M)	Literature	(CLC)
Conference Service Manual	(CSM)	Members' Relationship to BOT/FWS	(CMRBOTC)
Business Meeting Items Summary	(BMIS)	Members Retention	(CMRC)
International Recovery Convention	(IRC)	Prison Outreach	(CPOC)
Anorexia	(CAC)	Public Information	(CPIC)
By-Laws	(CBC)	Service	(CSC)
Conference Charter	(CCC)	Sponsorship	(CSPC)
Diversity	(CDC)	Steps and Traditions	(CSTC)
Finance	(CFC)	<i>the Journal</i>	(CJC)
Healthy Relationships	(CHRC)	Translation	(CTC)
Inter-Fellowship	(CIFC)		

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

General Assembly 1-2pm

This session began with the Serenity Prayer and readings of the 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, and the 12 Recommended Guidelines for Dealing with the Media. The roles for the session were: Gabriel G. - micro, Rita H. - macro, and Anthony P. as backup.

A quorum representing 2/3rds of or 31 voting members present of 46 seated and registered participants was established: **40/46** in attendance.

Introductions were made: BOT members; FWS Staff; and delegates from New York Intergroup, Pennsylvania (Western PA and Delaware Valley Intergroups), Ohio (Northeast Ohio Intergroup and Cincinnati Intergroups), Florida (Tampa Bay, Palm Beach County, and Southern Florida Intergroups), California (San Diego, Los Angeles, Sacramento, and San Francisco/East Bay Intergroups); Arizona; Texas (Austin, Dallas, Houston Intergroups), Canada (Montreal Intergroup); Connecticut Intergroup; Poland (Warsaw Intergroup), German-speaking Countries Intergroup; volunteers; and observers. There was a brief check-in for everybody.

Two additional service roles were added: Sam A.-Timekeeper, and Christine L. (Spiritual Reminder). Committee reports followed.

The BOT Chair, Rita H., provided a written report. Highlights of this report are as follows: two new subcommittees were formed-the Web Team and the Copyright-Translations subcommittee (CTS); each provides education and information to members about copyright and trademark plus other guidelines. The FWS office staff is working more than they should; one staff member was laid off and another resigned. The office was closed on Fridays since last Fall.

Linda Hamilton, General Manager of the FWS Office, provided a written report. The highlights are as follows: there were financial crunches in the office, with the need to close the office on Fridays and lying off one employee; one employee resigned, leaving the office with two full-time employees. The office is looking for a 12-Step member that is willing to be an employee in the office. The webmaster is a hired employee of the office who is growing the website. Registration for identification purposes is requested of all Intergroups, groups, and lone groups. The English pamphlets were reformatted and a volunteer reformatted the Spanish pamphlets. A creation of a new newcomer's packet was established. The office practices are becoming more transparent. The profit and loss sheet is attached to the report and the office is looking for volunteers to start meetings in the San Antonio area.

Tom F., chair of the BFOC, provided a written report. Highlights of this report are as follows: committee assisted the office; worked on budget; assisted in the hiring of the CPA; assisted in legal issues; changed members; standardized SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures); put in place internal controls; reviewed health care plan; and assisted in the writing of job descriptions.

Leon C., chair of the BGNC, provided a written report. Highlights of his report are as follows: Resolved conflicts of interest and service in kind for BOT and Non-BOT members in compliance for State of MA; assessed the risk of servers; identified three candidates for the BOT and interviews in the ABM Binder; worked on Twelve Concepts with Concepts Task Force; and met to discuss the Concepts in order to create a presentation for the Conference.

Kim B., chair of the BPRC, provided a written report. Highlights of this report are as follows: Kim replaced Bob F. who resigned in December; handled media requests; worked with the Web Team; oversaw literature; oversaw the FWS Newsletter; assisted in event planning for the 2011 IRC; presented a bid for SoCal to host 2011-12 ABM and 2011 IRC for 35th Anniversary; rewrote the Romantic Obsession text, which is part of the 2010 BMIS; and worked on the website article "Beginning Recovery Where No Meetings Exist."

Sam A. of the CLC provided a report. Highlights of this report are as follows: there are nine active members and 22 friends that helped with literature edits; worked on Triggers text which is on the 2010 BMIS; completed "Measuring Progress" is completed. The committee is moving into solutions-oriented documents. The draft pamphlets of "Tools for Achieving Sobriety" and "Anorexia 123" are available.

Moses C. of the CTC provided a report. Highlights of this report are as follows: the committee is 1-year old; has met nine times; is working on the 7 core documents in 7 languages; has developed a mission statement and goals; has two official sub-committees (Spanish and Chinese). Each country has their own translation committee which this committee supports.

Garry K. of the CSTC provided a report. Highlights of this report are as follows: the Traditions Study Subcommittee responded to a number of questions this year in the FWS News which is published quarterly; developed a new mission statement including sobriety requirements. The 12&12 subcommittee worked on a professional literature task force; continued to collect member's information on sharing sheets; and has supplement history of the 12&12 project which started in 2004.

Steve B. of the CSPC provided a report. Note this committee was reactivated this year. Highlights of this report are as follows: its duties are promotion facilitation and information regarding sponsorship. The committee reinstated the long distance sponsorship program which will be run by volunteers. People will be matched with sponsors that will use internet, phone, and computer; will help members use and understand new technology; will be actively seeking new sponsors; and will hold telephonic sponsorship meetings on Thursdays.

Tim F. of the CSC provided a report. Highlights of this report are as follows: held monthly teleconference meetings; worked on handouts to help Intergroups in sending more delegates; developed service ladder which outlines getting active in the Fellowship; and worked on a service sponsorship pamphlet.

David B. of the CPIC provided a report. Highlights of this report are as follows: the committee changed its mission statement; worked with South Florida's group on a treatment center outreach kit for treatment centers; worked on a list of relationship "dos"; and is drafting a cover letter for treatment center.

Garry K. of the CPOC provided a report. Highlights of this report are as follows: two members are involved in creating initial responses to prisoners. The committee has had 76 requests; had placed 31 orders with FWS to send literature to inmates with 2 new orders on the way; spent \$612 on literature; members have donated money for postage and phone time; currently has eight active members who would like to see partnership with Intergroups. The committee is now seeing 2nd generation requests.

MRBOTC- remains inactive.

CMRC- no report

Andrew H., of the CJC, provided a report. Highlights of this report are as follows: has provided an organizational chart on appendix I that explains how *the Journal* is organized; has a publication team; and has a marketing director, Tom B.

Tim F. of the CIC provided a report. Highlights of this report are as follows: there are three subcommittees; Virtual reality/start up/Google/yahoo. The committee would like to provide information and instruction for creating and printing new pdf files, getting free Conference calls, using/ explaining Google groups docs, and explaining time zones.

After time for announcements, this session ended for a break.

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Twelve Concepts Presentation 2:15-3:30p

Roles for this session were Rita H.-micro, Gabriel G.-macro, and Anthony P.-backup. Rita H. gave a brief history of how the BOT was assigned by the Conference to develop information about this. Rita introduced Leon C. and Richard C., BOT members. Leon used a PowerPoint presentation to introduce a first draft of the 12 Concepts of Service, after which there was a 20-minute period for questions and comments from the delegates. The comments are summarized as follows:

- Thanks to the BOT for the presentation and using the hybrid from AA and AI-Anon 12 Concepts. I would like to move forward with adopting the Concepts. We have spent several years talking about the Concepts. We need to adopt them and use them. We can improve them later. I make a recommendation for a motion to adopt the Concepts for the Fellowship.
- There is an item for discussion on the BMIS. Thanks to the BOT for their efforts. I would like to widen these to all perspectives of levels of service, other than the BOT and FWS office.
- Great presentation. I appreciate tracking the language of AA and AI-Anon. Excellent example about what needs to be done now. The details we will have to work out.
- Is this PowerPoint and first draft available digitally? It will be on the website for download later.
- About Concept IX, professionals paid as accounting staff. I would like more information. We now have *Randy Walker, CPA*, of San Antonio and his team of five employees as our accounting firm. The General Manager deals with him directly. Are our funds stable or are we increasing costs to cover this? The financial presentation is next. Let's do the right thing (keeping books properly) and let go of the outcome. I think if members are more confident about the accounting process, they might give more.
- Can you define "Conference?" The Conference is all delegates seated and registered for a particular ABM year this includes all BOT, all office staff, and delegates. Why the office staff? They are not members. They have a stake and are invested. The Conference

changes with each year. Linda is the only voting staff member. The *Journal* editor can vote too, but he is not here.

- We used the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions of AA and altered them. Are we allowed to use and alter the 12 Concepts? The real short answer is that we have permission from AA to use the short form of the 12 Concepts. Once we are all done with word-smithing, we need to give a copy of our Concepts to AA and that completes their copyright permission cycle.
- Thanks for the presentation. We do not need to restrict ourselves to twelve. We can add or delete Concepts.
- Are non-delegate members part of the Conference? No. We have others present that do not have a vote. Group conscience is decided by voting members only and, from a legal standpoint, we need a quorum.
- Most of the 12 Concepts seem to have something to do with the bottom 2/3rds of the triangle. What is the simplest explanation about what are Concepts for? The Concepts are applicable at all service levels. The examples we gave were about FWS and BOT. We have to use group or intergroup examples when you talk to your groups. That might not be easy.
- I worry about radically misinterpreting the Concepts. I have a dictionary, and small tradition is something inherited, established, and customary, a belief or story. The meaning gets lost in process, but always knowing that a sober group of people operating in a sober manner with humility is the key. If you are a student of the AA service manual, it uses Conference charter that is established.
- My understanding of the Concepts is that they are Traditions for the Conference members. What is the right of participation? I did not understand this section. It means that everybody has the right to participate or join in.

This session ended and there was time for announcements and a short break.

Tuesday, August 10, 2010, 3:30-4:30pm

FWS/BOT Financial Presentation

The roles for this session were: Anthony P.- micro, Gabriel G.- macro, and Rita H. –backup. Tom F., chair of the BFOC, and Linda Hamilton, the FWS GM, prepared a financial presentation and draft budget to the Conference. It was noted that the fiscal year begins Oct. 1, and ends September 30 of each year. The draft budget was presented to all (will be attached), for all to figure out what is best for the Fellowship in the spirit of transparency. There was time for questions and comments at the end of the presentation. They are summarized as follows:

- I appreciate the level of professionalism and appreciate the draft budget. Why is there a reduction in merchandise discounts? Equipment leases? Why is there no property and insurance for next year? If you look at the actual in the 9-month column, we are looking at the trend we are on now. It is reduced due to the trend after the ABMs, where we slowdown in contributions and sales. It is based on the percentage of sales. We will have property insurance costs. We streamlined the process and consolidated items. We budgeted for nine months for the webmaster. It was corrected that the webmaster service is \$800, not \$500. Website costs include the cost of modules to run the website. Computer leases are projected lower as we have one computer lease and we are done paying for the computers and paid off the server.
- It looks as if we have more money. We lost our faith in how the office ran the finances and made decisions. You are getting better and better in putting out information, and I think this brings in more money. What about unemployment insurance? This is tricky when it is a small office. We don't meet the requirements.

- In the line Contract Service Other it doesn't make sense? Computers, IT people, security and alarm system are some of these costs.
- It is encouraging to see stabilization. Looking at longer term, the contributions are down. Are there special initiatives to restore the endowment fund that we spent? We have had several discussions and see a disconnect between FWS and Intergroups, and Intergroups and groups. We are looking at solutions constantly and we are open to suggestions. We hope to devote more time to contributions and education of our members about self-support.
- We have budgeted a fair amount of money in contracted fees. Is any work done pro bono? Regarding the website, are we spending more money on the website? Is there evidence that this helps? We had a member that is a CPA and he had a willingness to work with non-profits and he donates part of his time for us. We do have a lawyer and have pro bono lawyers at hand. We refer many questions to them. Most CPAs don't want to work with non-profits and one as small as us. There is no tracking for this on the website and this would be difficult. Over 50-70% of sales come through the website. Donations are picking up on the website. So the answer is no, we are not specifically tracking trends. This might be a good idea.
- To make changes, modules have to be purchased. I understand why this expense is high. What is this line, General Expense -Staff Development? As pointed out earlier, there is an error, it is \$500. We were recently double charged and are waiting for money.
- The shipping costs are outrageous. Is the increase in literature sales analysis due to price increase? Have you done a unit analysis? How many units are we selling? We have researched a lot about shipping rates. There have been four rate increases for UPS and USPS. We lose money when there is a backorder or a lost order. The office eats the shipping costs for these and we have had a lot. The pamphlets took longer than we intended and we ended up eating the cost. We are working on it. I just received a notice for two more rate increases starting 9-1-11. Unfortunately, we will have to pass the costs on to those paying for literature.
- What happens on Fridays? Fridays we are closed technically. Richard works 10-hour days. He is off Friday. I try to use Friday as a catch up day at the office. We have had unit analysis. We left it off this report.
- An idea to save money is if we sold our literature as eBooks or pamphlets. We would save in postage. We could take care of handling and printing per unit via internet.
- What is staff development? We have classes and seminars to develop the staff, such as classes in time management.
- I like the work of the Call Squad in its work to pass on information.
- When does the fiscal year end? 9-30
- There appears to be a \$12000 shortfall on postage? Mechanism on rate increases? This is due to the modules we purchased for the website- every time there is a rate increase, it will roll into the online store.
- Printed costs will go down if we had eBooks. We will not have cost of goods. There will be technology costs. We need a financial analysis if we were to do this.

This session ended with announcements and a break.

Tuesday, August 10, 2010, 5-6pm

General Assembly

The roles for this session were: Gabriel G.-micro, Rita H. - macro, and Anthony P.- back-up. Sam A. volunteered to be the timekeeper. There were **40/46** delegates present and this was a quorum. The Conference committee reports continued.

The CIFC was reactivated. Mark S. reported this committee's wishes to participate in the InterFellowship Forum (IFF) with the "S" fellowships and COSA. They will attend in November. We are creating a survey to be distributed.

Fiona D. of the CHRC provided a report. Highlights of this report are as follows: flyers were handed out in regards to tele-meetings; we are working on tools to engage healthy dating and relationships; had successful tele-meetings and will continue agendas. If you have experience, strength, and hope, we request you write them down and send it to our email link. We are working on characteristics of healthy partners meeting format. We will help you start meetings based on developing health relationships.

Anthony P. of the CFC provided a report. Highlights of this report are as follows: we are taking requests for committee funding and then these will go to the BOT for approval. We will continue to support the BOT in developing awareness of the 7th Tradition.

Brian R. of the CDC provided a report. Highlights of this report are as follows: creating a pamphlet for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered (GLBT) members; special groups are dealing with Chapter 7 in the Basic Text and having special focus meetings. The committee is creating writings for the 12&12 with CSTC and has a catalog of diverse meeting formats they are preparing for the website. *(Note-This report was given a later/out of alphabetical order and put into this section for more organized reading.)*

Gabriel G. of the CCC provided a report. Highlights of this report are as follows: they are putting together the BMIS and looking at a new process. There is a subcommittee which does ABM scheduling. There is a different subcommittee working on an interim voting process. A third subcommittee worked on editing the CSM. The chair reported there is no Conference Newsletter. The chair is responsible for the Conference member and Conference committee rosters; holding Conference chair calls/meetings bimonthly; can help with questions about use of calling cards and responsibilities of a committee chair.

Tim F. of the CAC provided a report. In the report of the CAC, Sheri M. was named the chair: there are 10 members, and 25 friends on the roster. They have worked on a tools pamphlet and Anorexia 1-2-3. They are working on a recovery plan for anorexics; and have been writing sharing sheets for the 12&12 on the topic of anorexia.

An explanation of the Business Method was given as well as instruction on how to activate or reactivate a Conference committee. The Conference started business using the BMIS.

10o01/09n14

Motion: Change the second-to-last sentence of the S.L.A.A. Preamble from:

"We find a common denominator in our obsessive/compulsive patterns which renders any personal differences of sexual or gender orientation irrelevant."

To: "We find a common denominator in our obsessive/compulsive patterns, honoring any personal differences of sexual orientation or gender identity." (Conference Diversity Committee)

Motion, as amended: Change the second-to-last sentence of the S.L.A.A. Preamble from:

"We find a common denominator in our obsessive/compulsive patterns which renders any personal differences of sexual or gender orientation irrelevant." To: "We find a common

denominator in our obsessive/compulsive patterns, accepting any personal differences of sexual orientation or gender identity." (Conference Diversity Committee)

Intent:

Currently the S.L.A.A. Preamble's second-to-last sentence reads, "We find a common denominator in our obsessive/compulsive patterns which renders any personal differences of sexual or gender orientation irrelevant." The CDC feels strongly that this sentence contains both literal and Tradition problems, and have submitted this Motion to the Conference to resolve

this. We propose the improved wording to be “We find a common denominator in our obsessive/compulsive patterns, honoring any personal differences of sexual orientation or gender identity.” As to literal problems, we perceive no clear or real definition to the term “gender orientation.” “Gender identity” is accurate; however, “gender orientation” is not accurate. We feel strongly that this wording needs to be corrected.

As to Tradition problems, the members of the CDC feel strongly that suggesting, “renders any personal differences of ... [sexual orientation or gender identity] irrelevant” is demeaning. There was unanimous CDC group conscience on this particular discussion issue.

This wording minimizes sexual and gender diversity within S.L.A.A. Instead of providing a welcoming message, it threatens our unity, suggesting that our diversity is not important – moreover IRRELEVANT – and the CDC perceives this as inappropriate based upon Tradition One (“common welfare” and “unity”). Members’ experiences with sex and love relationships, before and during recovery, are very relevant. Additional Traditions that the CDC considered beyond Tradition One (“... common welfare ... unity.”) include: Tradition Three (“... only requirement ...”); Tradition Five (“... primary purpose ... carry the message ...”); and Tradition Twelve (“... principles before personalities.”).

Requirements:

Books and pamphlets will have to be changed before their next printing. The SLAA FWS website will need to be changed. And any other places the Preamble is printed will need to be changed.

Removed from the BMIS by the submitters.

10o02/09n15

Item for Discussion:

This item asks the Conference to discuss the minimal requirements for service work at the Conference committee level. In other words, what does this Conference recommend as the *minimum* suggested sobriety requirements for Conference committee work?

If we are to be held accountable for our actions, then we need to observe Tradition 9 of [being] “... directly responsible to those [we] they serve.” which leads us to act in the spirit of Step 12 “... and to practice these principles in all areas of our lives.” (*Leon C., Richardson, TX; Sam A., Felton, CA*)

Intent:

Obtain information and feedback from the fellowship regarding sobriety requirements at the Conference committee level. Shall there be a higher standard for a Conference committee chair person? Is it okay for someone to be under the influence of mood-altering substances while performing service work? This includes such work as Conference call meetings, discussions, developing motions, voting, writing literature, and other committee work.

Requirements:

There are no implementation requirements and the authors suggest that the committees discuss the spirit of this item.

There was 1 minute allotted for each comment. At this time, a co-submitter of the IFD stated he would like to withdraw the item, stating that there was much work done on committee levels this year and that the submitters have what they need.

The item was withdrawn.

10o03/09n16Motion: The Fellowship shall fund the expenses of the CCC Chair to the ABC/M. (*Conference Committee Chairs*)

Intent:

The CCC Chair is integral in facilitation of the ABM. The CCC Chair is not necessarily a delegate and therefore may not be supported by his/her Intergroup, and therefore in our opinion ought to be financially supported.

Requirements:

Costs would be similar to the cost of sending a BOT member or the Journal editor to the ABC/M.

Committee comments that are not listed on the BMIS are as follows:

- On behalf of the S. FL Intergroup, a friendly amendment was offered: "The Fellowship shall fund the expenses of the CCC chair to the ABC/M if not attending as a delegate."

For this motion, Gabriel G. did not serve as micro due to conflict of interest, since he is also the CCC chair.

New volunteer positions filled. Vote counters were Andrew H. and Dave B.

An up-down vote was taken by the entire Conference on the motion to accept the friendly amendment to **10c03/09n16**. Vote was **yes-43; no-5**.

The friendly amendment was accepted. The new motion reads: "The Fellowship shall fund the expenses of the CCC chair to the ABC/M if not attending as a delegate."

This session ended for dinner.

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Getting to Know the BOT/FWS 7-8pm

This session started with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer. The roles for this session were: Andrew H.-micro, Sam A-macro, and Gabriel G. - Back-up. Rita H. described the position and responsibilities of the BOT chair. Linda Hamilton talked about duties and activities of the office staff; processing orders, answering emails, etc., and she talked about a desire to set up S.L.A.A. meetings in San Antonio. Tom F., chair of the BFOC, described duties of the BFOC. The Copyright-Translations subcommittee and Web Team are two subcommittees and the BFOC serves as liaison. Leon C., chair of the BGNC, described activities of the BGNC. Kim B., chair of the BPRC, described activities of the BPRC. Richard Gallegos, FWS Staff member, talked about his duties in the office. There was time to answer questions and hear comments. They are summarized as follows:

- Can you talk about conflict/tension between Traditions 5 and 7? It takes money to help the still suffering sex and love addict. If we are sober, and working through any personality issues, we can work through any traditions conflict.
- You don't live in the same place, how does that work? We have 3-hour calls every other month. We are also liaison to committees and report on those at our meetings. Board committees bring items for discussion and our agenda is set up this way. The Chair of the BOT provides agenda and the organization of the call. There are occasionally special calls. Each BOT committee meets as well, and there are special committees we belong to, like the Web Team or the Call Squad. The BOT chair serves as the facilitator. We have group conscience on votes; the chair is not the boss. We work to get consensus on items. This year there were 78 motions which were decided upon.
- Are Conference committees accountable to the BOT liaisons? The liaisons are there to have an exchange of information. The information goes from the committee to the BOT via liaison and BOT to committee via liaison. They also serve as a resource.
- If I have concerns or questions about a Conference committee, who is the best person to talk to? The first is the chair of the committee. If there are concerns, the chair of the CCC can be contacted. The BOT liaison's job is not to tell committee how to

behave/work. There is a conflict resolution process via the CCC and there are chairs calls to resolve issues as a whole.

- Can you report on the implementation of BOT motions? The BOT has its own manual that includes motions and decisions. To review anything that has passed and/or brought to the BOT, the manual is the resource. We also review the votes made by the Conference. For example, the Romantic Obsession pamphlet had passed last year; however, we heard comments made by the Conference as to their discomfort passing it in its present state, so this was referred to the BPRC for minor changes. With the author's approval, there is a motion to accept the Romantic Obsession pamphlet as edited on the BMIS this year. We also set up other committees to help in other tasks; such as the CCPC (Conference and Convention Planning Committee) and a task force to discuss the *Journal*. The FWS Newsletter has summaries of all BOT minutes.
- I appreciate the quick responses to emails. The current BOT has been more transparent than BOTs in the last 12 years. Regarding the 12 Concepts, what does the current BOT feel is the pathway to approval of the Concepts and can it be done by 2011? The Conference and HP will determine the final due date. So much needs to be considered. I see a lot of work ahead for BOT and Conference members.
- Does it take formal Conference approval to have the Concepts approved? Nothing keeps us from using the Concepts. It has been sanctioned as "OK" to use as a draft. We need to put the Concepts into practice. Practice will ferret out any problems. It is best to have few years of practicing the 12 Concepts. If we quickly accept them without practice, whatever mistakes there are, they will be hard to revise. I suggest for you to take the draft back to your groups, experiment with it, and then codify it. Sam A. will volunteer to help with this. What have the other 12 Step groups done? SAA just accepted AA 12 Concepts in the short form. In AI-Anon, it took 16 years and 4 versions to be done. I don't know when it will be finished, but we are moving forward.
- S.L.A.A. has grown. It is exploding. What are your thoughts as to the obstacles to outreach and helping more people finding us and staying with us? We have media guidelines and the Traditions. These keep us from rushing and help us to stay within the principles. We have faith that if we are doing it the right way, in accordance with the Traditions, it is attractive to those that want what we have and will stay. There is some stigma about our addiction that has its challenges. Betty Ford humanized alcoholism, Kitty Dukakis humanized mental illness, and Sargent Shriver humanized those with physical impairments. I would hope Clinton and Woods will help with this. Lately, we have had more inquiries and we have lots of newcomers.
- Is the BOT working on a long range plan? We discussed strategic planning at our face to face meetings and we are taking a look at a 3-5 year planning horizon. The strategic planning becomes the map of the Fellowship. If we know tactical steps, we can look at the plan, we can determine the plan.

After a review of the Conference schedule, the BGNC Chair spoke about BOT nominations and offered information as to the number of seats available on the BOT and sobriety requirements.

This session was ended for a recovery meeting and free time.

Wednesday, August 11, 2010

Conference Committee Meetings 8:30am-12noon

The day started with a meditation/recovery meeting and breakfast. For the rest of the morning, delegates spent time in Conference Committee Meetings. After lunch, General Assembly was held.

Wednesday, August 11, 2010

General Assembly 1-2pm

This session began with the Serenity Prayer and readings of the 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, and the 12 Recommended Guidelines for Dealing with the Media.

Roles for this session were: Garry K-micro, Roger R. - macro; Rob. P. - back-up. Other assigned roles were: Spiritual Reminder- Eric E.; Timekeeper- Gino; Vote Counters, James and Karma

There was **44/47** present. There was a quorum.

We continued with the friendly amendment from yesterday.

10o03/09n16Motion:

“The Fellowship shall fund the expenses of the CCC chair to the ABC/M by the fellowship to the ABC/M if not attending as a delegate.”

Conference committees that had not reported on this motion were asked to do so. The comments are summarized as follows:

- CFC- Supports this motion as amended.
- CTC- Supports this motion.

Three pros and three cons were heard and are summarized as follows:

- I am in favor, it is better than nothing. I regret the vote in favor of the amendment, as it put burdens on the CCC chair. It is not necessary for CCC chair to be a delegate.
- In favor of the original motion. It now presents a gray area. It is either fully supported or will have to find alternate means of funding, such as coming out of CCC's budget.
- Opposed that CCC chair could even have the potential for conflict of interest. I urge the CCC that they can bring back motion next year if this is unclear. The CCC chair could have a vote.
- If the CCC chair happens to be a delegate then he/she is funded by their group. If the CCC chair is not a delegate, an alternate method of funding the CCC chair should be put into place. The wording is not unclear to me

A revote of the 1st vote was made as some members were preoccupied and forgot to vote.

1st vote: 43-4-0.

Minority opinion was heard and comments are summarized as follows:

- We voted too quickly for the amendment to see all the financial ramifications of the motion.
- We are afraid this will set a precedent that other chairs will want to be funded. Also, a financial burden will be placed on the Fellowship.

2nd vote: 43-4-0.

The motion passed.

10o04/09n07

Motion: Consistent with the unanimous positive response to the 2009 item for discussion titled Widening Publication Channels for Conference-approved Materials, it hereby is moved that the Conference permit the distribution of our Basic Text, Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous through online stores and physical chains in the interest of improving outreach effectiveness and increasing F.W.S. revenue, provided

- no exclusive sales agreements are entered into and
- the S.L.A.A. name or logo is not used by the distributor outside of its mention in the product description. Examples of such distribution channels are Borders, Amazon, and Barnes & Noble, and there are many others. (*South Florida Intergroup, c/o Douglas D. and Steve B.*)

Intent:

The Board of Trustees and the F.W.S. Office could employ typical pricing practices. The price point for sales through the Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous Online Store and the price point through these other stores could be chosen to maximize both Fifth Tradition outreach and revenue. One need not be sacrificed to serve the other.

Currently, outside entities are buying S.L.A.A. texts, both new and used, and charging anything from low to exorbitant prices. For example, on January 27th, 2010, one retailer was charging \$156.85 for a single copy, without shipping, and on February 28th, 2010, a copy was available from a different vendor for \$250.00. This, of course, is not the advisable price point for our purposes, but it illustrates the potential for combining Fifth Tradition outreach and revenue generation.

Regarding Tradition Six, the adoption of this motion would bring us closer to (rather than divert us from) our primary purpose by increasing the availability of basic S.L.A.A. recovery information.

Regarding Tradition Ten, making the book available through multiple channels does not favor any one of them. It is not endorsing any particular outside enterprise if multiple stores carry Conference-approved literature, especially if we include a non-endorsement statement in the seller's description of the book. This type of business arrangement need not be different than any other business arrangement between S.L.A.A. and equipment providers, credit card companies via merchant accounts, stationary vendors, landlords, insurance companies, printers, mail couriers, web hosting companies, domain name registrars, or A.B.M. meeting venues.

Regarding Tradition Eleven, making a book public is not promotion, it is similar in many respects to a public service notice in a newspaper or placing our basic text in a library, which has long been common practice in the recovery community.

Requirements:

A potentially revenue positive activity. Some time would be necessary to set up the distribution arrangements. (see attachment)

Conference Committees that had not reported on this motion were permitted to do so. Their comments are summarized as follows:

- CAC: We would like this book to be widely available in order to call increased attention to anorexia.
- BRS: This was an IFD last year. Some changes were made because of the discussion held last year.
- CTC: We are opposed. We need to protect the intellectual property of the Fellowship and this supersedes Tradition 5.

Three pros and three cons were heard. They are summarized as follows:

- The operative word is permit. This would not require action. FWS/BOT would reserve the concept if this is fiscally prudent to use these venues. This would create additional options.
- This book is a tool used in the meetings.
- This already exists. This book is sold on the internet and the literature has been translated and is distributed without control. People carry the book on the handheld phones. In AA, the book was created for those who did not have other supports.

- It is inappropriate to discuss this matter. This is a BOT decision. And we should not be dictating how the BOT structures this contract. The IFD last year was sufficient.
- The concern was a hope we could reach those outside the program and become more available. Would want to find resources. I did not understand the distribution process. It is time we explore the option of other book resources. We could contact S.A.A. for their experience.
- This is a mistaken impression that we can control this financially. Other venues can discount books. The Fellowship does not get profit from these venues.

1st vote: 29-16-1. Due to some delegates forgetting to raise their hands, there was a

Re-vote: 30-16-1.

Minority opinion was heard and comments are summarized as follows:

- This is not something that should come to the BOT. The BOT is free to do these things.
- The language of the motion implies the authority of the Conference to dictate to the BOT and FWS. I am in favor of widening publication and distribution channels. We already contract with Hazelden.
- This is not necessary. It is legal and best left to the BOT.
- Not appropriate for a Conference vote and wording needs work.
- There is a danger talking about other venues. Revenues would be cut if Intergroups used Amazon, etc.
- Refer to draft Concept 6 & 7. 25% of the income of the Fellowship is derived from the sale of the Text in the current manner.
- This is an office and BOT decision. We do have a contract with Hazelden. I have looked into this. It might be lower on Amazon and be cheaper and there is nothing we can do. We rely upon our sales. We need to carry the message, but it remains a BOT/FWS decision.

2nd vote: 17-27-3.

The minority has changed, so the minority opinion was heard. Comments are summarized as follows:

- The truth is there are 31 copies now on Amazon selling at \$10.95 used. Intergroups know this and we do not purchase from Amazon. The BOT wants us to reconfirm this and seeks our input. A 2-way dialogue is needed.
- Gives the BOT the idea that Conference distribution from other venues will help the still suffering addict. This can be done through venues other than the office.
- My recollection is the BOT wanted the vote of confidence, or not, before we take this action. They are asking for this.
- There would be some bulk purchase advantages. If we have larger volume, we may be able to get more money. It is unfortunate this is permitting in the motion.
- We can get them on Amazon. But, our meetings will get it from the office. Others outside the meeting will probably get them at Amazon.
- There are currently new and used books available on Amazon as a point of clarification.
- This is a conceptual vote. This is not a mandate. Do we want to use this outlet or venue to get our message across?
- I would like to know that we are engaged in spiritual work. AA and our book carries the message. I have no fear, we will lose the money.

3rd vote: 24-22-1.

The motion passed.

There was a challenge to group conscience. There was one up/down vote, a vote yes, it is group conscience, a vote no, it is not group conscience.

The vote was: **13-32**

The motion passed, but the Conference voted that this is not group conscience.

There was a small break.

Wednesday, August 11, 2010

General Assembly 2:45pm-3:30pm

The roles for this session were: Tom F.-micro, Richard C. - macro, Brian R. - backup. Other roles will remain the same. **43/47**, there is a quorum.

10o05/09n11

Motion:

To approve "Triggers s A Resource – In Meetings and Beyond" as Conference Approved Literature. (*West Coast Writing Group / CLC*) **See attachment 2** for the draft text.

Intent:

Within the S.L.A.A. community, confusion sometimes arises around acceptable meeting behavior. The purpose of this booklet is to create awareness of these challenging issues, in and out of meetings, and to offer some definitions, suggestions, and guidelines that might be helpful to individuals and groups discussing these topics.

Requirements:

Cost of publication and distribution of Conference Approved Literature. (*see attachment*)

It was asked that Conference committees that have not already responded do so. The comments are summarized as follows:

- CSPC: This would be a great tool for sponsors to use with their sponsees.
- CLC: There will be a brief summary from the CLC if the motion passes.

Three pros and three cons were heard. They are summarized as follows:

- This is a 23-page document, beating you over the head with information. I would like it to be a pamphlet. Yet, it is so large it will cause others to think this more important than information on other subjects in pamphlets.
- This has gone through a lot of work. Literature is needed. I trust the CLC has done their job. I trust that BOT will then do their job.
- Are we an addiction or codependency issue? I am an addict. This includes exclusionary thinking and cannot support it.
- This is an issue that needs guidelines. This is an issue that comes up at meetings. I have been confused how to address these issues and am pleased to see attention paid to it. I support it.
- This is a powerful document with strong ideas. However, it is repetitive, needs an editorial hand, and needs to be shortened.
- Lots of work has gone into it, which included input from the European countries. It was part of another document. It was rewritten and changed to a position of self-responsibility.

1st vote: 27-15-5.

Minority opinion was heard. The comments are summarized as follows:

- No one talked about how much this would cost to print. It may cost lots more.
- I think this is too long. I would be in favor if it were shorter.

- It is a booklet. It is overwhelming. This might discourage a sponsee to read it. It might not be fiscally possible for those who need it to buy it.
- It has a lot of powerful, solution-oriented documentation. It has a lot of stuff. It is not cohesive enough and it is too long. Maybe it could go online for a price.
- This labels attractive women as triggers. I don't think women would appreciate the label of triggers.
- There are many helpful things in this document. This is best handled at a group level. Recovery gives me tools to take to the outside world which is one big trigger fest.

2nd vote: 24-18-5.

The motion passed. Noted that this was not a 2/3rds majority and therefore not binding on the BOT.

10n06

Item For Discussion:

Discuss in more detail the proposed S.L.A.A. Twelve Concepts as presented by the BOT at the 2008 – 09 ABC/M. For example, what do we need to do to adapt the AA 12 Concepts for World Service to reflect the experience of S.L.A.A.? What are the processes, objectives, milestones and deadlines? What is the service plan?

The Board of Trustees encourages discussion and feedback on *A First Draft of the S.L.A.A. Twelve Concepts of Service* found in Attachments. (*Submitter 1, and Submitter 8 on behalf of the BOT*) **See attachment 3** for the BOT draft of 12 Concepts adapted for S.L.A.A. **See attachment 4** for the A.A. Concepts (short form) for comparison.

Intent:

To continue the discussion begun at the prior ABC/Ms as presented by the BOT. The Board of Trustees (BOT) presents this first draft of the *S.L.A.A. Twelve Concepts of Service* to the Conference so that discussion and feedback can begin throughout the Fellowship. It is hoped that a motion for adoption of the *S.L.A.A. Twelve Concepts of Service* can occur in the near future when the Conference is ready. This draft is a plain language adaptation of the *Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) Twelve Concepts for World Service*. A.A. World Services, Inc. permits adaptation of the short form only of the A.A. Twelve Concepts. The BOT would also like to hear from the Conference on whether there is interest in the creation of a Concepts subcommittee in a Conference Committee(s); e.g., CBC, CSTC or other committee to provide feedback on draft updates.

Requirements:

Allocate time for discussion at the ABC/M. No FWS staff time, materials or other needs appear necessary for this IFD. Before publication, the approved adaptation of The S.L.A.A. Twelve Concepts of Service will be sent to the A.A. World Service Office to complete their copyright permission cycle. (*see attachments*)

No additional committees commented at this time. Fifteen minutes of discussion was allotted for this item. The comments are summarized as follows:

- Co-submitter stated that he was not in agreement that this was merged, but can live with it.
- When I look at the draft, I think there's a lot of work done. I am familiar with the Al-Anon versions and I think AA version is somewhere in the middle. The By-Laws Committee would be great to talk to about this as it would change our By-Laws. I would like to see Conference members work on this.

- The context is AA originated. The S.L.A.A. version could be between Al-Anon and AA. There needs to be a committee to work it through to make it ours. Something we can be proud of.
- Focus the discussion on the BOT's first draft. I would not like to review 2008-09 decision. The BOT got us to a good start. The CBC and CSTC would be active committees I would suggest to work on this. The Concepts are important as we grow.
- It would be Intergroups or groups that would run with the 12 Concepts to see how they work in a natural environment. In 06-07, they were passed out as a primer and would be good to have a pilot program.
- I heard the presentation. We have Al-Anon, AA versions to create S.L.A.A. version. I thought that's what we did. Do we want this to be that different?
- There should be a subcommittee and should be delegates and members of the Fellowship and Sam A. as a volunteer. We need to use the Concepts. If we do not use them, we will not understand the work that needs to be done.
- I found the Concepts confusing. I didn't know them and I still don't know them. I think we need some help for those of us who do not know how these might work.
- I would like feedback at any time about the content of the presentation.
- I would suggest all read AA version. I hope people would try to read them. This item is important. I would suggest the Conference to be involved with the BOT as to content development.
- The presentation was good and conveyed the original message of the Concepts. These are guidelines in how groups work in a spiritual way. We need to stretch and give authority to make the document good for everybody.
- When I read them, I don't know how to make them clearer. These are very clear just the way they are.
- Impressed by the draft. AA has 12 Concepts in a long version. Al-Anon and NA have the same. We needed the presentation to understand the conceptual ideas. We need a long version before we publish the short version, so we have a short and long version.
- The short form would be a good start. We are looking for a longer version. It doesn't have to be longer than a pamphlet. We do not need a motion to create a committee in handling this.

The discussion was closed.

10n07

Item For Discussion:

How do we define good service leadership / trusted servant-ship? How do we encourage, maintain and support this? How do we transfer our experience and understanding of service / trusted servant work to those that come behind us in the Fellowship? (*Submitter 1*)

Intent:

To develop a broader understanding of service, leadership, and trusted servant roles and what to do to strengthen our culture of service within the Fellowship.

Requirements:

Allocate time for discussion at the ABC/M.

There were no additional Conference committee reports: Fifteen minutes were allotted for discussion. Comments are summarized as follows:

- Define the difference between policy and procedure and then codify and document those.

- It is important to encourage the use of alternative positions, such as vice chairs and co-chairs. The co-chairs move up when the chairs resign, so they are already trained.
- We bring up service as a topic. We share about what service is and as a discussion we have forwarded the idea of what service is. Service is putting the chairs, doing coffee, chairing, being a group's representative to Intergroup, being a delegate, and beyond.
- Setting an example to others for service and incorporating this in our shares. The importance of service being a vital part of our program. Stress the importance of rotation of service so that one person doesn't stay in one position and possibly get an ego. Encourage others to be involved.
- Proofreading *the Journal* is about service. We don't address the spiritual or psychological aspect of service. Someone wrote about being in relationship with service. It is an HP directed function and more elaboration can be discussed and conveyed to newcomers and members who do not do service.
- In the 5 S's, I think we stress service to the newcomers. Without them we might not be sober.
- New project on CSC is to share about how service works and encourage others to join in, such as on a Conference committee.
- CSC has been around a long time and the CSPC has sometimes been inactive. Service and sponsorship topics can quiet a meeting. It is important in other fellowships that sponsors require them to get involved. It becomes a culture.
- I hold a few service positions and service is a trigger for me. I think it is important to realize that we do not sacrifice our spiritual sobriety for service and that it is not a requirement for membership or a tool of recovery. I had to take time for my own spiritual growth.
- It is good leadership to allow things to happen, to hear voices, and to allow changes to happen in the right sense as a mission of our community.
- We are thinking about having a service sponsor as a position in our home group to help others.
- In AA, it is said that service keeps you sober and I don't see that so much. It is hard to find people to do service or to be willing to sponsor.
- Have set periods of rotation. Otherwise, it was assumed that someone would stay in that position. It is appropriate for officers to not have multiple roles in multiple groups.

This discussion ended.

10n08

Item For Discussion: The Literature Suite Subcommittee of the C.L.C. requests brainstorming ideas and suggestions that will be used to formulate a Literature Plan. This plan will be presented to the Literature Committee for further action. The following questions may stimulate discussion.

- Do we need literature dealing with different phases of recovery, 2 years, 8 years, or 15 years?
- Do we need new literature to support new members?
- Has any literature become obsolete or been superseded?
- Do you see any literature that needs editing or improvement? Please be specific.
- Can any pamphlets be consolidated into a single piece?
- Can the covers of the literature be more compelling (i.e. title or subtitle changes, color)?
- Are there any changes to current Literature that may benefit S.L.A.A. members?

(Suite Subcommittee of the C.L.C., Submitters 6, 4)

Intent:

The Literature Suite Subcommittee mission statement (for reference): to strengthen the evaluation and planning of S.L.A.A. literature creation.

As of this writing, the following requests for new Literature (from indicated service bodies) have been recorded, along with requests for pamphlet consolidation and helpful edits.

- Characteristics of Healthy Partners (CHRC Sept 2009)
- Healthy sexuality (CMRC Oct 2009)
- Recovery from fantasy (CMRC Oct 2009)
- Recovery from anorexia (CAC Aug 2009)
- Creative recovery (Journal Oct 2009)
- Evolution of personal bottom lines and top lines (LSS Dec 2009)
- Sober dating (LSS Dec 2009)
- Forming relationships and maintaining healthy relationships (LSS Dec 2009)
- Maintaining healthy boundaries (Journal Mar 2010)
- Specific step and tradition how-to guide (LSS Dec 2009)
- Keeping a meeting healthy (CMRC Oct 2009)
- Outreach Dos and How-tos (CPIC Aug 2009)
- Outreach Kits (including the Treatment Outreach Kit) (CPIC Aug 2008)
- Toplines Pamphlet (Palm Beach County Intergroup Jan 2004)
- Stories pamphlet: Family history and our patterns (From the Heart, group 2009)

Requirements:

No cost or labor will be required beyond the allocation of time for discussion at the ABC/M.

Committees that have not yet reported on this IFD were asked to do so: The comments are summarized as follows:

- CSPC- We would like to see a 12-Step workbook specific to this Fellowship and to get toplines and self care out there.
- CAC- The Basic Text is not etched in stone. When we mention bottom lines, we need to mention top lines. We also need to update the Conference approved literature to reflect this.

Fifteen minutes was allotted for discussion on this item. The comments are summarized as follows.

- From the submitter: There are other committees planning for literature. We are trying to implement ideas into some writing. We would like to know what you need in recovery.
- We need literature on three of the items; literature on abuse survivorship, sober or healthy masturbation, and sober dating.
- I have many requests for recovery from internet porn, and tools to stop it.
- I think we need to correct and revise our current literature and produce new versions of the pamphlets. We also need to update the Basic Text to include anorexia and internet.
- A priority is editing the Basic Text as I don't identify with it. Editing the 12 Steps with anorexia and the life stories of anorexics is needed. I am also triggered by the specifics of the stories. "Strawberry omelets" is too specific.
- We need literature on sex abuse and how it relates to sex and love addiction.
- We do not need a motion to create literature, just people that want to write it. We think more literature on the phases of recovery is needed. I would like to focus on strengthening our 1st Tradition- unity. We need literature to emphasize the identification as sex and love addicts.

- Any effort on the solutions is desirable. I recommend spirituality and the role of spirituality in recovery.
- Anorexia tool kit is out of print. This can be updated. AA has the first 163 pages of its text as a separate book. We could translate the first 166 pages and not the stories.
- We need new editions that address the issues that have come up in the last 30 years. We have a lot of work and need more volunteers. If you are passionate about creating documents, join the CLC, get on one of the writing teams, and help write it.
- We need continued status report on the 12&12. We need to look at intervals of recovery.
- Update the 40 questions to be more current with internet recovery. Include the 50 anorexia questions.
- We need internet issues updated as well as; young people issues; and other forms of chatting and communication.
- The Literature committee could set up a discussion blog so that others could participate. We need new stories that are pertinent and current with our culture.
- Have a book about grief and trauma that impacts our acting out.
- Anorexia; fantasy and intrigue addiction; recovery tools; 12-Step workbook. Our text triggers me as it is too specific.
- I have confusion about Conference approved literature? It does not mean it is a pamphlet and up to the BOT and office as to how it is presented.

The discussion was ended and there was time for announcements and a short break.

Tuesday, August 11, 2010

General Assembly 4:30-6pm

Roles for this session: Brian R. - micro; Rob P. - macro; Sam A. - backup. Other roles remained the same. **47/47**, a quorum was met. Business continued.

10n09

Item For Discussion:

Does the definition of anorexia in the brown Anorexia pamphlet, adopted by the Conference in 1992, and does the current wording of Steps One and Twelve and Traditions Three and Five accurately reflect the current wisdom of the S.L.A.A. community regarding anorexia and its relationship to sex and love addiction?(*Submitter 4*)

Intent:

Excerpts:

The Conference-approved Anorexia pamphlet states: "What is Anorexia? In Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, we suffer from addiction to sex, love, relationship, fantasy, romance, and codependency. However, there is still another addiction some of us suffer from: anorexia.

As an eating disorder, anorexia is defined as the compulsive avoidance of food. In the area of sex and love, anorexia has a similar definition: Anorexia is the compulsive avoidance of giving or receiving social, sexual, or emotional nourishment."

S.L.A.A. Step One: "We admitted we were powerless over sex and love addiction, that our lives had become unmanageable." S.L.A.A. Step Twelve: "Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to sex and love addicts, and to practice these principles in all areas of our lives." S.L.A.A. Tradition Three: "The only requirement for S.L.A.A. membership is the desire to stop living out a pattern of sex and love addiction. Any two or more persons gathered together for mutual aid in recovering from sex and love addiction may call themselves an S.L.A.A. group, provided that as a group they have no other affiliation." S.L.A.A. Tradition Five: "Each group has but one primary purpose -- to carry its message to the sex and love addict who still suffers."

Discussion:

The above excerpted wordings leave ambiguities that have led to challenging questions during B.O.T. elections, during the review of draft literature, and in home groups throughout the world. These unresolved ambiguities arise repeatedly and can be brought to light through these two questions:

1. As S.L.A.A. wishes to define anorexia, is anorexia necessarily a symptom or subset of sex and love addiction, or can sexual, social, and emotional anorexia exist without sex and love addiction?
2. Is powerlessness over anorexia the symptom of an addiction, is anorexia not an addiction, or can it be either depending on the person?

People with difficulties in the areas of sex, love, fantasy, romance, codependency, and anorexia can identify themselves in a number of ways as they consider their beliefs about themselves regarding anorexia and sex and love addiction.

- a) Sex and love addicts who are not anorexic;
- b) Sex and love addicts who are anorexic, but their anorexia is a symptom or subset of their addiction;
- c) Sex and love addicts who are anorexic, and their anorexia is a separate addiction in the same way that (for instance) gambling might be a separate addiction;
- d) Anorexics who are not sex and love addicts but whose anorexia is an addiction;
- e) Anorexics who are not sex and love addicts and whose anorexia is not an addiction.

The Anorexia pamphlet and Steps One and Twelve and Traditions Three and Five are written to include those who identify as (a) through (c) in our membership, but not so clearly those who identify as (d).

There is actually a logical conflict between the Anorexia pamphlet's definition and Steps and Traditions that relate to the (d) group: If anorexia is "another addiction" is anorexia NOT sex and love addiction?

The current wording of Tradition three and article III section 2 of the S.L.A.A. Bylaws clearly do not include those who identify as (e) as qualifying for S.L.A.A. membership, yet how these membership criteria are treated is currently determined by each group. Perhaps the group autonomy of Tradition Four is applicable in this case, but the ambiguity of the above excerpted wordings is adversely affecting S.L.A.A. as a whole, so the matter is worthy of consideration by the groups that compose the S.L.A.A. community, as they express themselves through the S.L.A.A. Conference.

The balance between the concept of inclusion and the concept of singleness of purpose is the ideological center of this issue. The desire to include those interested in joining the S.L.A.A. community can be the mark of a sober and compassionate person. At the same time, the importance of limiting the scope of S.L.A.A.'s purpose, representations, and activities is central to Traditions Three, Five, Six, Ten, and Eleven.

Steps One and Twelve and Traditions Three and Five define S.L.A.A.'s unique identity with the words sex and love addiction as opposed to alcoholism or some other noun. S.L.A.A.'s vision of powerlessness, the recipients of outreach, and the requirement for membership are all focused around this term. Is that identity still valid? Do those who state that they are not sex and love addicts qualify for S.L.A.A. membership, or should Steps One and Twelve and Traditions Three and Five be modified to change our membership qualifications?

When a person is powerless over anorexia, does that automatically mean that she or he is a sex and love addict and qualifies as one, or is anorexia a separate disease? Is our literature's current presentation of the strong and often inseparable connection between sex, love, and anorexia what we still believe to be universally true, or is it time to adjust our model of addiction and recovery? What is the best way to put these recurring discussions to rest?

It is good for us to periodically ask the question, "Who are we?" This I.F.D. is not a pitch for any particular position. It is only a request that S.L.A.A. discovers and clarify its own position

to avoid endless discussions about these same ambiguities over the coming decades. If we shirk our responsibility to answer common questions, we leave S.L.A.A. with a shifting policy for determining membership and the right to serve.

Each case will be interpreted differently by those voting on B.O.T., Intergroup, or group elections, by Conference committees, by literature writers, by Journal editors, by newsletter editors, and by web content writers.

Let's not leave our membership with such confusing membership standards.

If the above ambiguities can be resolved, countless hours of time can be saved in the future at all levels of service by not having to hash out these same questions year after year. –
(*editor note: this paragraph moved from requirements to intent*)

Requirements:

The cost of this item is the time it takes to discuss it. If a group conscience emerges, there could be an impact on future printings of literature, but not necessarily so.

No other Conference committees reported on this IFD. There was 20 minutes allotted for comments. The comments are summarized as follows:

- I am addicted to something which is nobody. I need love, we need love, and we need emotional sustenance to survive. I am anorexic and a sex and love addict. I avoid love of anybody. Nobody is the object of our addiction. I won't discount anorexics as sex and love addicts.
- Tradition 1. Anorexia is a primary symptom of our disease. It is not a separate disease. I had difficulty identifying with the stories in the Basic Text. I could identify with the feelings and challenges of being a sex and love addict. It is an integral part of the disease and I am determined not to separate. Excerpts from the literature and in feedback are positive. If you are acting out by staying alone, you are still acting out.
- I would like to have anorexia be a part of sex and love addiction. The subject is still sex and love, compulsivity of sex and the compulsive lack of sex. The Basic Text writers were not medical. Our bottom lines can be elastic, and this can happen without a lot of controversy. Bottom lines can include anorexia.
- I have had long periods when I did not have sexual partners. Magazines, movies, and bookshops were ways I got through these periods. This is part of my anorexia and it is intertwined.
- Trying to define someone's anorexia is the same as defining someone's bottom line. Professionals might define it as a compulsive disorder or a part of sex and love addiction. I would like to keep unity. As long as I am unmanageable around sex and love, I belong. I will not judge anyone's manifestation of this disease. We are working together to manage sex and love no matter what the manifestations.
- AA talks about dry drunks and S.L.A.A. talks about anorexia. Both are damaging. My group has included this. It is dangerous for our Fellowship to say that anorexia is not part of the addiction. The controversy has damaged members of this Conference and caused hurt feelings. An anorexic is an addict that still suffers. They do not have healthy relationships.
- Part of the anorexia is having a fantasy, or to have the chemical reaction to it. It is still self-destructive, and anorexics are still scared of people. Who's to judge our bottom lines?
- I was acting out with people. Then, I accidentally found anorexia meeting. I identified with 30 of the anorexia questions. It's the same coin, though double-sided. Sick is still sick. I am not sure there are separate addictions. In the Steps, we can add avoidant.
- I encourage we pay attention to anorexia and its description. I had come into program and didn't know what it was. When we defined anorexia, 50% started identifying

themselves as anorexic. Our literature is unfairly slanted towards acting out, not enough to acting in.

- I agree anorexia is a manifestation of sex and love addiction. If we look at the characteristics such as number 11-to avoid feeling vulnerable, we may retreat from all intimate involvement mistaking sexual and emotional anorexia as recovery.
- Hearing the anorexia pamphlet, I saw the patterns of my disorder. I would be a sex and love addict bulimic. I eat you and throw you up. It is precise if using this medical way.
- My pattern includes anorexic times. I need a program where I can talk about it. I don't what to exclude anorexics. I want to include anorexics.
- Anorexia is an intimacy disorder and a pattern of sex and love. It is a fear of people. It took a long time to identify as anorexic. And I may fault our literature for leaving it out.
- I would like to focus on a singleness of purpose. I don't define my acting out as sex. I see sex as a good thing that brings me to be fully human and fully alive. If anorexia keeps you away from a full and abundant life, so did my sex and love addiction. Both roads lead to the same place.
- Addiction is a core characteristic of 12-Step programs leading to 1st step of the powerlessness. We tend to polarize characteristics. They are simply different aspects. There is still a stigma attached to sex and love addiction. I want to be open to how they identify themselves and I think a simple definition works in our favor.
- I found sex and love literature on anorexia, and I am grateful. It was a missing link. I don't see anorexia as separate. All addictions are chemical. Even when acting in.
- I identify as a sex addict as I did not feel love at all. Feeling that you can come somewhere and belong and feel accepted is better. I am ashamed for identifying anorexia as a phase.
- There have been spirited debates. There was some hostility towards anorexics. There were others that were saying they were anorexic, not sex and love addicts. We should not be hostile towards those who identify as anorexic.

This discussion was closed.

10n10

Motion: To amend the 'Romantic Obsession text passed by the Conference in 2009 as submitted. (*Board Public Relations Committee, Submitter 7*)

See attachment 5 for the revised text.

See attachment 6 for the original pre-revision text for comparison.

Intent:

The 'Romantic Obsession' text was approved by the Conference at the 2009 ABC/M after three votes, but did not have the 2/3 majority to be binding on the BOT.

The BPRC reviewed comments from the Conference and revised the text for grammar and readability, while remaining faithful to the goals and intent of the original. The author of the original was solicited for feedback and felt the revised text has more clarity and flows more smoothly.

Requirements:

Approval of this motion will lead to the publication of the Romantic Obsession text as Conference Approved Literature resource available to members through F.W.S. (*see attachments*)

Conference committees that had not reported on this motion were asked to do so. The comments are as follows:

- BPRC-This work was referred to the BPRC for additional work, due to the comments of the Conference last year. BOT had the right to pass it as it was, but it did not pass by 2/3rd majority. A subcommittee was formed and worked on it. The originator agreed with the changes made.
- CLC-The request for redlined copy was fulfilled. Although it was not a redline version, there was comparison copies sent. The changes make it clear and more readable. It is a better document. If you like this document as written and approved, vote for it. A new board might not move on it if it does pass by 2/3rds today.
- CSPC-Supports this motion.

There was a request for three pros and three cons. There was one comment and it is summarized as follows:

- If I had this document earlier, I would have recovered much faster. It is a remarkable tool.

1st vote: 46-1-0

Minority opinion was heard. The comment is summarized as follows.

- It looks a lot like the Triggers pamphlet and I don't like it.

2nd vote: 46-1-0

The motion passed.

After announcements, nominations for BOT members were requested from the floor. There were none. However, there was a reminder that the deadline for nominations was tonight. The activities for the rest of the evening were dinner; an international speaker meeting; a visit to the FWS office, recovery meeting, and free time.

Thursday, August 12, 2010

Conference Committee Meetings 8:30am-12noon

The day started with a mediation/recovery meeting and breakfast. Then delegates spent the rest of the morning in Conference committee sessions and then lunch.

Thursday August 12, 2010

General Assembly 1-2pm

This session began with the Serenity Prayer and reading of the 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, and the 12 Recommended Guidelines for Dealing with the Media. Roles for this session are: Richard C.- micro, Garry K. - macro and Gabriel G. - backup. Other assigned roles were: Timekeeper- Gino P.; Spiritual Reminder- James E., Vote counters- Michaela K. and Terri B. 44/47 meets the quorum.

Business continued.

10n11

Item For Discussion:

To discuss a consistent standard for use in S.L.A.A. literature concerning the terms "bottom line" and "top line" when publishing new literature for the S.L.A.A. Fellowship. (*Palm Beach County Delegates, South Florida Intergroup Delegates Santa Cruz, CA Intergroup Delegate, Submitter 6*)

Intent:

The new draft piece of literature "Anorexia 1, 2, 3" pamphlet uses topline (one word) consistently throughout the document. The "Welcome" pamphlet uses both a hyphen (e.g.

bottom-line) and two words (e.g. bottom line). The S.L.A.A. Basic Text on page 72 uses two words in quotations (e.g. "bottom lines").

Requirements:

This is an Item For Discussion and therefore presents no known financial or labor costs to the Fellowship.

Conference committees that had not yet reported on this IFD, were asked to comment. The comments are summarized as follows:

- CIC-The committee wishes all terms are grammatically correct in all media in print online, and web. We realize individual members would not be subject to this including typing "bl" and "tl" in chat and emails.
- CTC- Using standard language will assist in translation

Ten minutes were allotted for this discussion. Comments are summarized as follows:

- As CLC members, we would like consistency in the literature and are aware the BOT can address this, but wanted the Conference to get more clarification. In literature, bottom line is a noun and an adjective.
- Bottom line and topline as an adjective is hyphenated. I think we could use guidelines and standards for all literature
- This is an inappropriate use of our time. The BOT needs to discuss this. I request we stop now. *(there is no procedure for stopping the discussion)*
- We spent 40 minutes discussing grammatical errors. We all could use a dictionary or Thesaurus to find the answers to this. There are others waiting for precious literature.
- There might be a better committee to handle this. There needs to be a policy for standards. Words are more important than architecture. If we can set policies, the better.
- We need a document that serves as a style guide. NA has one.
- Trying to get to the intent, the committee is asking for help. We should listen to them.

The discussion was closed.

10n12

Motion:

To add the following sixth resource to the current list of five major resources in the preamble: "Self care. Our daily commitment to nurture well-being through top line behaviors that develop balance, meaning, and fulfillment in our lives." *(Conference Members Retention Committee (CMRC) c/o submitters 6 and 4. Palm Beach County Intergroup (Florida), From the Heart (group) Lake Worth, Florida)*

Intention:

The intention of a new 6th resource is to raise awareness of top line behaviors as a significant recovery tool for use with accessory behaviors and the bottom line. Top line ideas are covered in the 5th section of the 'Setting Bottom Lines' pamphlet, and a personal story in the Basic Text reads, "In maintaining my sobriety, I find it more useful to keep in mind what I call my top line.... My top line is what I do want for myself, my program goals (p. 270)."

Requirements:

The CMRC is sensitive to additional cost to the Fellowship and asks for feedback from the BOT, FWS, and CFC as to how the motion may be amended (if needed) to prevent unnecessary reprinting costs.

Time will be required to discuss this at the ABC/M.

Conference committees that had not addressed this IFD were requested to comment. The comments are outlined as follows:

- CAC- The committee strongly feels this is important, but has polarized views. Those in the affirmative: self-care is necessary and precedes the ability to offer service and sponsorship. The wording, including topline, is a valuable and consistent goal for members identifying as anorexic. Anorexia deals with improving self-care. It was challenging in early recovery and hearing this repeatedly would have helped in our growth. Anorectic deprivation is the opposite of self-care. Many anorexics have a feeling that we are not deserving of what the wording reinforces. This is a core component for personal recovery. Those in the negative: self-care is implied in the 5 resources and is redundant and vague. Keep it simple. The more affirmative answers do not reflect the comments that were evenly distributed.
- CTC- We support this. Translation is self-care and reading something in our own language is self-care.

Three pros and three cons were heard. The comments are summarized as follows:

- I believe self care is important.
- This has not been addressed by the CLC. This has not followed the process and should not be on the BMIS. This should be an issue for discussion.
- This would be helpful by using this resource in recovery.
- It will cost money. The Preamble is everywhere. A booklet on self-care might be a better use of time.
- This would be a cost but, it is essential to sobriety. It is recommended in all the tools written. In being receptive of our needs, I don't see the spirit of this in the other 5 resources.
- Self care is covered in the first 5 resources. This is redundant.
- Group conscience of the CLC states this is not in our purview. This is an important part of our recovery. I would like to read our resources.
- We love self-care but the description is vague. It can be an expense we can grandfather it in to our literature. Toplines is vague.

1st vote: 20-21-1

Re-vote: 20-22-2

Minority opinion was heard and the comments are summarized as follows:

- We would run through the literature we have now, and then, in reprinting, it would be minimal in cost to add additional lines.
- Newcomers need to hear about self-care and newcomers don't read the pamphlets, so hearing it would be helpful. I didn't even know about self-care and need to hear it, too.
- Service was triggering for me, and self-care had to be 1st. It is essential and it precedes service. I needed to care for myself first. When I didn't, it was negative for me.
- The Preamble is out of date and in need of change. We could add this in the new printing and it would change that financial concern. My sponsor voices this concept to me. I started to learn to take care of myself. I wish for everyone to have this gift.
- In the Preamble, 2 of the S's are sponsoring and service. I think self care-comes before this.
- I would like to keep this simple. I would not be here if I did not have the concept of self-care. I had toxic self-esteem. I had to do a lot of work. The other 5 S's don't mention this and how important it is.

- Self-care is a new concept to the recovery center where I facilitate groups. We have tried it out, it works and I loved hearing these comments this week.
- The 5 S's format has been updated in all Basic Texts 2004 version or after.

2nd vote: 27-17-3

32 are binding on the board, and there are now 47 members present.

The minority changed. Minority opinion was heard and the comments are summarized as follows:

- Our first major resource is stopping self-destructive behaviors and we have to replace it with something
- It is not appropriate to address this and I have a suggestion. I ask the makers of this motion to table this till next year. That would give it time for more discussion or have a vote of the Conference to make a motion.
- The makers of the motion are concerned there will not be additional discussion on this.
- This has been addressed. We need to come up with an answer. There is not process for this.
- The motion has been acted on and falls in the 2-year category, since we have had two votes. It does not pass yet.
- The maker of the motion agreed to table it, without prejudice.

The motion is tabled.

There was a short break.

Thursday, August 12, 2010

General Assembly, 2:30-3:30p

The roles of the session were: Roger R.-micro, David B.-macro, and Anthony P. - Back-up. Other roles remained the same. Business continued.

10n13

Motion: Approve the *Measuring Progress* pamphlet as Conference Approved Literature. *(Conference Literature Committee/Measuring Progress Writing Team)*

See attachment 7 for the draft text.

Intention:

In this pamphlet we provide measures that help us realize, despite our setbacks at times, how the program has in distinct and measurable ways brought a new quality of recovery into our lives. It offers a number of ways to view our progress over time. This piece is an addition to our ever growing *solution* based literature suite.

Requirements:

Cost to produce, publish, and market Conference Approved Literature. *(See attachment)*

Conference Committees that have not commented on this motion were requested to do so. The comments are summarized as follows:

- CSPC- In favor of this motion as this is a hopeful tool for sponsorship to give positive encouragement and growth in sponsees.
- CSTC- We don't make recommendations or endorse. We ask that you consider Tradition 8.

Three pros and three cons were heard. The comments are summarized as follows:

- Question “Is this a draft in need of more changes or is this the final version?” was answered, “This is a final draft and put to Conference for approval.”
- I think we need a way to measure progress, especially with bottom line recovery. I am against this because there are a number of words and images that are negative. It needs to walk the readers through progress, which is not in the bulleted items.
- Our Fellowship has the need for literature. This has gone through the literature process. I may not agree with it, but I am behind the literature process and can agree with it.
- In the first paragraph, it indicates that I am not surrendering, but that I am fighting. And I do whatever I do to stay away from my bottom line behavior. I think it sends the wrong message.
- The writing team wanted to help the person struggling. Also the member who has been slipping needs to have a reason to stay on track, keep coming back and see measurements on progress in qualitative as well as quantitative ways. It is solution-based, and we might have another edition some day. This has been through the process.
- There is not a place to have the worksheet in its design. The wording is correct.
- It is a useful tool, no matter what the formatting, for use as a sponsor.

There was a request for a friendly amendment: a request to drop the 1st three paragraphs. The CLC, which included one of the makers and 2 of the writing team deferred to the writer. They decided that rather than drop the first three paragraphs, they would table it and get feedback from the Conference and to bring back a revised version.

The motion was tabled.

10n14 Item For Discussion:

That the Conference consider the 12x12x12, the Steps, Traditions and Concepts, 36 Principles of Al-Anon as expressed in the book *Paths to Recovery/Les Voies du Rétablissement*¹ to be treated in the way that AA literature is, in relation to CAL (Conference Approved Literature).

(DASASLAA Intergroup, Submitter 9)

¹ Les Voies du Rétablissement: Les Étapes, les Traditions et les Concepts d' Al-Anon, Les Groupes familiaux Al-Anon, pour les familles et les amis des alcooliques. Le titre original de ce livre est : Paths to Recovery, Al-Anon Steps, Traditions, and Concepts. Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. 1600 Corporate Landing Parkway, Virginia Beach, VA 23454-5617.

Téléphone: (757) 563-1600 Télécopier: (757) 563-1655. Site web-www.al-anon.alateen.org. Adresse de courrier électronique: wso@al-anon.org. copyright 1997Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, INC.

Intent:

The intentionality of the spirituality behind the offering of this IFD recommending the Al-anon book *Paths to Recovery* [PTR] as a useful tool to the Conference as a “CAL Friend” is based upon the following principles:

1. Chapter 3 of the Basic text stories “Kate” a Family Member of an SLAA’s, as is CH “To The Wives” of AA’s Big Book and the whole of the PTR.
2. The writing of our own SLAA 12x12 may take another 10 years, due to various factors i.e. economic recession. We must research our journals for articles on the traditions.
3. P. 66 of the Basic Text is read as an introduction to reading the AA Big Book or 12x12 during S.L.A.A. meetings. Some groups may find it helpful to also offer this tool, especially other-language groups who do not have the SLAA Basic text yet translated (p. 66 also speaks of families and others suffering from the destruction caused by an active sex and love addict.

4. The adaptation of the 12 Concepts to SLAA is a “work in progress”; this tool is another aid, already in print.
5. The PTR addresses all 36 Principles, Steps, Traditions and Concepts in a member and member friendly process, which can be adapted to SLAA as AA is.
6. The CS&TC already includes the PTR book as a model for professional writing.
7. French Intergroups may find this tool helpful in their controversies with agreed-upon translations as they progress toward translating the Basic Text. The CTC French sub-committee may find this tool helpful; the PTR has been professionally translated into French.
8. The CHRC, Healthy Relationships Committee, the CAC Anorexia Committee, among others, may find this tool helpful to encourage home groups in their Intergroups to carry the message (Tradition 5) in recovering from unhealthy relationships, and from sexual, emotional and social (SES) anorexia.
9. At the 2007, '08 and '09 ABMs, the AA Illustrated Traditions (and maybe Concepts) were distributed to each Delegate at little cost. Using the PTR in conjunction with these illustrated graphic tools may be helpful as aids to new Intergroup Representative's, Intergroup Members and Delegates.

Requirements:

There is no cost, other than purchasing the book at local Al-anon meetings. The only implementation needed is to encourage/recommend and /or suggest that local delegates, chairs, IR's of Intergroups encourage their local members and home groups to purchase this tool locally, if the local group conscience decides to do so.

Conference committees that had not yet addressed this motion, do so. The comments are summarized as follows:

- CJC- In addition to this effort, we request that members share with *the Journal*.
- CBC- There is no reference to AA literature.
- CTC- We support this. This is a way of accessing materials and it is translated in other languages. If the Conference would be in favor, we would have other documents to be available in other languages.

Ten minutes of discussion was allotted for this IFD. The comments are summarized as follows:

- Non-Conference Approved Literature Statement-The Conference understands that some patterns of our addiction have a lack of experience reflected within our literature. In an effort to fill this gap, we encourage members to submit their personal experience to the Journal and the [Conference Literature Committee] CLC for sharing with the entire Fellowship. While each group is autonomous, the Conference does not encourage the use of non-Conference-Approved literature (outside literature does not include S.L.A.A. literature in draft form). If any group chooses to use non-Conference-Approved literature, it ought to be clearly defined as such. We do encourage the practice of our 12 Steps and 12 Traditions for all members and groups in recovery from our addiction. Vehicles for distribution will include the bulk mailing, F.W.S. Newsletter, the Journal, etc. You may send submissions to: Fellowship-Wide Services, 1550 NE Loop 410, Suite 118, San Antonio, TX 78209 USA
- I am concerned about Tradition 6, even though I enjoy reading literature from other 12-Step groups. Once we start endorsing Al-Anon literature, why not OA or NA? It will be a distraction. This is a form of endorsement that can cause others with partiality that will divide our Fellowship.

- This is a time for discussion. We can't approve other people's literature based on the process. We have discussed groups being autonomous and we have recommended reading the AA Big Book and 12&12.
- The 12&12 writing is a priority. Taking 12 years is not acceptable.
- I cannot understand what the IFD is asking for. What are they asking? To change the literature? I don't think much can be achieved.
- This interferes with Traditions 6 and 3. It can be perceived as inconsistent with non-affiliation. They are still unapproved. Using it is not sending the right message.
- I had a service co-sponsor and there was nothing available on the Concepts unless referring them to other literature. I understand this is non-Conference approved literature, but it has helped me a lot.
- I benefit from outside literature. Groups can be autonomous and can choose to buy it. We are working on a 12&12 and submit sharing sheets. If you have benefitted from this, use the S.L.A.A. sharing sheets.
- Sponsors and groups do what they think is appropriate. Groups utilize the 12&12 or the Big Book. The results have been beneficial.
- The intent is related to encouragement, staying present and sharing the process of recovery and taking it back home.
- We have a crossover between addictions and it is in our benefit to understand the other addictions. I realized when I was in another 12-Step group. I am humble and I had to accept that.
- Those resources are valuable. And when talking about Traditions there is nothing written about this.
- AA used a lot of materials in getting their writings and they encouraged using the outside tools needed.

The discussion was ended. There were announcements and a short break.

Thursday, August 12, 2010

General Assembly, 3:30-4:30pm

This session began with the Serenity Prayer. The roles were: Andrew H.-micro, Tom F. - macro, and Brian R. -backup. All other roles remained the same. Business continued.

10n15-Motion: To approve the idea of developing an S.L.A.A. Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book. (*Board Of Trustees, Submitter 7*)

Intent:

The development of an S.L.A.A. Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book will take significant resources of the fellowship where such resources are limited. The intent of this motion is to confirm the commitment of the Conference to this monumental task and direct the BOT to devote resources to this project as a priority item.

Requirements:

If this motion is passed, the BOT will devote more resources to continuing development of a professional literature process and a funding approach for a Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book in particular.

- Clarification: BOT did start a task force called the Professional Literature Process and Funding Committee and is under review. We want input at every stage of the 12&12. A professional could be paid or unpaid. We have these among our members. We are trying to keep it separate from the 12&12 S.L.A.A. book.

- BOT was given 3-5 minutes to present this motion. They had consensus to keep the motion as it is and tried to make this as simple as possible. "Do you approve of the idea?" When it is time for committee input, I will clarify.

Committees were asked for their feedback. Comments are summarized as follows:

- BOT- If you vote yes to the motion, you are indicating to the BOT that 12&12 is a high priority and will be high on the agenda, and by no means is it not a high priority, but will remain on the agenda and will rely on the appropriate Conference committees to move it forward.
- CSPC- AA 12&12 is essential to sponsorship. A well-written S.L.A.A. 12&12 will be essential and will aid sponsors and add integrity for those newcomers from other 12-Step meetings
- CFC-We need financial details before we could reach group conscience.
- CPIC- AA 12&12 would be of benefit to the Fellowship.

Three pros and three cons were heard. The comments are as follows:

- I have concerns about a professional literature process and funding approach. I am supporting this motion as it simply states the development and the requirements are not binding but a guesstimate. I don't want to circumvent existing processes.
- I am confused; this is a vote on priority when there is already a committee working? If it is not broken, don't fix it.
- Numbers from a member's research on professional writing were offered for clarification. The numbers quoted are:

Fair Market Value from Writer's Market (2008) Book Publishing
Nonfiction Book-writing (collaborative)
High \$75,000.00
Average \$ 25,297.00
Low \$1,300.00

Opening Hearts and Transforming Losses (2008) 180 pages approximately
\$25,000.00

Discovering Choices (2009) 323 pages approximately \$40,000.00
Paths to Recovery 341 pages.

Comments continued:

- We are a smaller Fellowship and have smaller resources.
- A sponsor gave me the AA12&12 and asked that I substitute sex and love addicts where it says alcoholics. I am tired of it. It will not be an easy process. It will take a long time. Start the process.
- Re-editing of Basic Text should have a higher priority. I hope it will be rewritten.
- Anything we can do to expedite this, we should do it. 85% of NA profit comes from sale of its basic books. I suggest we will not bring in a professional writer before its time.

46/47 members currently and this is a quorum.

1st vote: 37-5-4

Minority opinion was heard and the comments are summarized as follows:

- I would love a 12&12 and support it. The work is already being done and the financial aspects can be determined by next year.

- Would love a 12&12. This is a BOT decision, and we are all in favor of it. Where are you taking the \$25K from? I don't want to reduce expenditure that can be used for other things.

2nd vote: 37-4-5

The motion passed.

IFD 10n16- Item For Discussion:

To discuss the selling and the distribution of S.L.A.A. literature via the internet in e-book form.
(*Santa Cruz, CA Intergroup, Submitter 6*)

Intent:

Cost for packaging, labor, storage, handling, distribution, printing, and postage will be greatly reduced and therefore positively enhancing profitability of the fellowship.

Requirements: This is an IFD with no requirements other than discussion time at the ABM.

Conference committees were requested to report on the IFD. Comments are summarized as follows:

- CPIC- We recognize the need for financial, legal, and other practical issues.
- CFC- We encourage the BOT to have a Business Plan with cost and benefits of eBooks of the Basic Text. The majority recognize our book is being sold electronically today. Our book is in pdf form in German and used.
- CJC- We did not come to group conscience; the concern was the impact on the revenue stream that already we have. One was in favor. Another had a concern of piracy of our literature. There were concerns of anonymity, meaning there might be persons more forthcoming with information in printed hard copy as opposed to e-form. Others reflected on importance to growth of Fellowship. Our sobriety depends upon the newcomer.
- CBC- Article VI.3.b. Of the By-Laws. BOT shall act as spokespersons and provide for and supervise all publications.

There was ten minutes allotted for discussion. The comments are summarized as follows:

- It would save FWS time and effort, after original website design is created. Less packaging, less trees, less disposal of paper and packaging, less gas and fuel in distribution. It is a good way to carry the message.
- Most addicts are doing so through electronic media. The age of the pamphlet is over. Those sick now, need it electronically. The focus is not to raise revenue, but to carry the message.
- There is a legal issue to be discussed. This is already happening, so jump on board. There is an application for that. This would not affect print. People would want both. Keep current with society.
- Our mission is to help the suffering sex and love addict. Ignoring the internet is problematic. I am hearing fear. We should not respond from fear. It is going to happen anyway. Be on top of it.
- This is a new concept, we could test market this. Why don't we put an internet version into the German or French market and monitor drop or rise in sales. It is the way of the future. We need to use the media they understand.
- I understand fears re: sales. E-Books may be cheaper to ship, produce, and generate. This leads to more sales. Could there be a cost-benefit analysis? Could have audio version as mp3.

- We need a cost-benefit analysis and to talk to other 12-Step groups about how it affected their sales. Investigate encryption.
- We are not going on the internet, if we have problems on the internet. There is however, potential for more revenue.
- I like talking to tech savvy people, riding the wave of this, and getting there early. The sooner the better. If we're going online, we go offline. We might attract more people.
- God is more of a source and money is not. If we live that way, it might work to get more money.
- I encourage futuristic thoughts. We can up the price of pdf or cd, decrease spending on Intergroup and they can sell it cheaper. It may lead to an easier flow in disseminating the message.
- Today on Yahoo, Amazon reduced the cost of the *Kindle*. I have concerns that we have no say so on how we present our message. When we are in that milieu, we are ahead.
- If we promote this, we can start to forward to others via computer. This may allow us to update material and to allow updated versions without spending money for full version.

The discussion was ended and there was a small break.

Thursday, August 12, 2010

General Assembly, 5:00-6:00pm

The roles for this session were: Rob P.-micro, Sam A.-macro, and Roger R. back-up. Other roles remain the same. The Conference has concluded its business from the BMIS. It was decided that 20 minutes of this session would be to discuss how one stays committed to service and/or any issues that arose in the dissemination of information prior to the ABM. The comments are summarized as follows:

- Prior delegates are not getting news to new delegates. There are ways as to how the information can be given: Chairs meetings and CCC meeting every month.
- Mentoring should start the Saturday after the ABM and until next ABM.
- Try to get the schedules out now and post on emails and website.
- If one travels on Monday to be here Tuesday morning, I would like to see about Monday hotels/transportation.
- Issues around senior delegates' support of new delegates. I created a new delegate document that outlines new delegates. I am willing to email it to you.
- Arizona is isolated a little or not in contact with FWS. When I tried to contact FWS it was not satisfactory. Friendship with people here has been phenomenal. I never read the agenda. The schedule could be mailed earlier. I need to know where I am supposed to be. The books are wonderful. It would be better if the appendix could have page numbers on them. I hope I can generate more interest in service.
- I was a late replacement. I did not get any emails or reminder for auction items. I had no clue where to go when I got here.
- Difficult to get information. Committees did not know what time they were meeting. We should have the times, so we can notify others. Difficult to get information on the delegate's page on the website.
- Grateful for the work done. I would like to know in advance of committee work.
- I am amazed by the dedication of others. I went on the website on the 10-14th but not clear what time on the 10th the event started.
- I thank everyone. I am impressed by the unbridled enthusiasm and made new friends.
- I would like to finish Tim's statement. It would be helpful to get copies of those files and docs sent to us. I did not get information from previous delegate, so I missed a day of events.

- I have concern about how items get on the BMIS and getting feedback to CCC.
- I am glad for the experience.
- Most of the committees I wanted to join were conflicting. I did not get the schedule. I liked putting faces to names. We have been so sober.
- I am pleased to receive all materials. They arrived in plenty of time prior. Thanks to the office and volunteers.
- Thank you for how well things were presented with the manual and BMIS. It helped that a previous delegate told me everything.

This discussion was ended and Christine L. was introduced as our speaker. She shared her story. After this session, there was dinner.

Thursday, August 12, 2010

General Assembly, Service Recognitions, 7-8pm

Those recognized were:

- BOT member- Bob F.- resigned in December
- Non-BOT members: Bob M. – BFOC; Delphi M.- BGNC; Deb W., Steve T., and Rob P. on the BPRC
- BOT record Keeper - Deb W.
- Outgoing BOT member: Chris D.
- Outgoing BOT member and BOT chair: Rita H.

Leon C., chair of the BGNC, gave the BOT nominees that were present, Ken F. and Rita H., an opportunity to talk about the 8th Tradition. They then responded to questions from the delegates re: their nominations. Please note that one of the BOT nominees, Ayana P., was not present at the 2010 ABC/M.

This session ended for the auction and recovery meeting.

Friday, August 13, 2010

General Assembly, BOT Elections 8:30-9:30am

Roles for this session were Gabriel G- micro, Leon C. - macro, Garry K.-backup. Timekeeper was Gino P. The session began with the Serenity Prayer and readings of the 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, and the 12 Recommended Guidelines for Dealing with the Media.

46/47 members were present and this was a quorum. Leon C., of the BGNC, reviewed the election process. Ballots were passed out, delegates voted, and ballots were collected. The BGNC and an impartial person left the room to count the ballots.

While waiting for the vote to be counted, the Conference was asked to talk about what one can expect after the ABM (re-entry) and how to utilize self-care. The comments are summarized as follows:

- Give yourself a day or two to wind down, eat right, rest and then get into it.
- Stay in touch with each other.
- Talk to mentors.
- Let the business sit. Think about the people that you have been able to be with, shared recovery with and connect with the spirit of what we have been doing. Talk; take time for feelings that have come out. Take time for yourself.
- 1-2-3- inhale slowly through nose, breathe from the bottom of the lungs up, count how long it takes you to inhale, and then breathe out slowly. Brain needs oxygen to deal with fear/anger. Do this 3x/day and you will have no problems.

- To let go and let God is how I handled myself this year in the Conference. Take a day to enjoy family.
- I recovered with addicts with other compulsive behaviors. Avoid compulsive behaviors.
- I didn't have to be hyper vigilant here, but the airport was difficult. There was a member there that helped me. I will debrief with a trusted S.L.A.A. friend.
- The Office will not be open next week and I will not answer my cell. I will be working hard to catch up and I will not be doing anything in the next couple of days. Richard will be taking an additional week off.
- I will go to a meeting. I want to be with my fellows and be a part of my life again. I have been checking with my sponsors every day. I will re-acclimate myself to how I have organized my life.
- I attended the ABM in 2004 with high expectations in certain areas, and my expectations were not met. I walked away with the wrong feelings. I came this time with an open heart and I attended every session. I am living life with training wheels and full of gratitude.
- I will call some friends and see if they want to socialize. Relax and talk to others. Just sit, read, and relax. I would be among people and feel great. Alone I would act out. I will have to take care of myself by talking about my feelings.
- The 1st ABM was overwhelming. Plane to hotel, hotel to plane and I experienced withdrawal. It feels today very different. We will be driving home and will be taking time on the way home. I will stay in the present time.
- I am glad for the reminder about the airport and getting back in the real world. I will curl up, go under the covers and will feel like I am freezing there. Adding the 6th "S" and adding self-care. I will be sleeping.
- In the past, I had some fear, had been carrying other people's feelings and the desire to fix it. I will be taking a break and do service for more selfless reasons. I have gratitude and trust. I have a mission and accept exactly what happened.
- I will take a nap.
- I have a Las Vegas sense of deprivation. I am going to go outside in fresh air and blue sky. I have been sitting on my bum and want to take a bike ride around the neighborhood. And I will go to a meeting tomorrow. It will feel lonely after this. I will call my sponsor.
- I am emotional. I replay things in my head. I have an anxiety disorder. I will talk about what is going on.
- I am hard on myself. I have fears about what you are going to think of me. I need to work on self-acceptance. That everything is okay. I did the best I could. Everything was as it was supposed to be. It was just as HP planned it. I will go to a meeting and will fly home with a friend.

This session ended. The BGNC Chair reported on the BOT elections results: The newly elected BOT members are as follows:

Ayana P.
Ken F.
Rita H.

After announcements, this session ended for Conference committee meetings and lunch.

Friday, August 13, 2010

Final General Assembly

Roles of the session were: Gabriel G. (interim chair of the CCC)-micro, Leon C. (chair of the BOT) - macro, and Steve B. (chair of the CFC)-backup. The session began with the Serenity Prayer and readings of the 12 Steps in French, the 12 Traditions in Polish and the *12 Recommended Guidelines for Dealing with the Media* in English. The Timekeeper was Gino P. and the Spiritual Reminder was Luciano G.

The chairs for the BOT committees are as follows:

- BFOC- Tom F.
- BGNC-Interim- Leon C.
- BPRC –Kim B.

BOT Liaisons to the Conference Committees are as follows:

CAC- Richard C.

CBC- Leon C. and Richard C

CCC- Richard C. and Leon C.

CDC- Ayana P.

CFC-Tom F.

CHRC- Ayana P.

CIFC-Tom F.

CICC- Kim B.

CIC- Rita H.

CJC-Ken F.

MRBOTC- Ken F.

CPOC - Ken F.

CPI- Ayana P.

CSC- Tom F.

CSPC- Tom F.

CSTC- Kim B

CTC- Rita H.

The Supervisor of the GM - Rita H.

The final Conference committee reports are in summary:

CAC

Interim Chair: Sheri M.

Elections will be at first teleconference meeting.

Budget: \$75 for mailing, photocopying

CBC- Reactivated

Chair: Rick B.

1st meeting: To be announced (TBA)

Projects: updating By-Laws to jive with the Concepts and working on Concepts for S.L.A.A

Budget: \$150 for phone cards

CCC

Interim Chair: Gabriel G.

1st meeting: 8-22-10

Projects: vote a new chair/vice chair and BMIS editor

Budget: \$500

CDC

Interim chair: Brian R., Lark A. - chair

1st meeting: 9-12-10 and will vote in new chair

Projects: Working with CSTC on 12&12 to include diversity, CDC subcommittee and needs chair, creating pamphlet to include LGBT issues, revise mission statement, catalog of diverse formats and upload to website, develop tri-fold to deal with members' stories

Budget: \$0

CFC

Chair: Steve B., Sam M.-co-chairs

Members: Tim, Steve, Roger, Karma, Michaela, Anthony, Sam

Projects: budgeting for Conference committees, involved in 7th Tradition fundraising for steady stream of revenue.

CHRC

Acting Chair: Fiona D.

Meeting time: 2nd Sun. of Sept. - will be voting in a new chair

Projects: healthy relationship tools, maintaining healthy relationships tele-meeting series, create healthy dating guidelines, and definition of healthy partners.

Budget: \$400 for calling cards, photocopies, paper

CIFC

Chair: Marc S.

1st meeting: Sept. 8, 11amET

Projects: finalize posting of S.L.A.A. on IFF website, survey of cooperation at Intergroup level by email draft document on IF cooperation, explore S.L.A.A. chairing the 2011-12 IFF

Budget: \$600 for CIFC to send delegate to face to face mtg. in LA in November

CICC

Vice chair: Luciano G.

Budget: \$350 to contact groups, find groups to make them Intergroups

CJC

Acting Chair: Andrew H.

Will be electing new chair at the next meeting

1st meeting: 8-21-10 @6pmET

Projects: oversight and publication team working on a pretty good list.

Budget: \$0

CIC

Interim chair: Tim F.

Meeting time: 4th Sunday of Sept.

1st meeting: 4th Sunday of Sept.

Budget: \$0

CLC

Interim chair: Sam A.

1st meeting: 8/28/10 @ 9amPT

Projects: will focus on these at first meeting

Budget: \$500 for calling cards and drafting literature

CMRBOTC not active

CMRC not active

CPOC

Chair: Garry K.

1st meeting: 10/2/10 @ 2:30pET

Projects: Direct outreach to pen pals and provide literature to prisoners, draft simple English version of the 12 Steps for consideration for next year; revive POC pamphlet for Intergroups; pamphlet for inmates through CLC

Budget: \$1700, \$1300 for literature and the rest for calling cards and mail ordering service.

CPIC

Acting Chair: Monique, David B. vice chair

Meeting time: 3rd Sun @4:30p

1st meeting: 8/22/10 @ 4:30pmET, Sept 19th will vote for chair

Budget: \$100 for outreach materials

CSC

Interim Chair: Ron G.

1st meeting: 9-26 @12noonEDT

Projects: to finalize the budget and elect new chair

Budget: \$0

CSPC

Chair: Susan L., Ron G. - vice chair, Susan G. secretary.

1st meeting: 1st Sat @2:30pmET, the first may be 1st Saturday in October

Projects: mission statement, Long Distance Sponsorship Program, Literature development

Budget: \$300

CSTC

Chair: Garry K., vice chair of 12 Traditions Study: Garry K., 12&12 vice chair: Stephen S.

Meeting time: 12&12-4th Sat@10:30aET, Tradition Study- 4th Sunday @4pm

1st meeting: 12&12-8/22/10@ 10:30aET, Step Study-8/29/10@ 4pm

Projects: Field questions from the Fellowship and put in the newsletter, comments on literature, comments on BMIS, reports on 12n12 in newsletter, collect sharing sheets, writing workshops, submission for stories from varying, diverse groups

Budget: \$ 200 for phone cards

CTC

Vice chair: Christine L.

1st meeting: 9/21/10@ 9pmET

Projects: Support Spanish in revising/translating documents in correct format, develop website of Chinese and French subcommittees, coordinate efforts in the French speaking countries and develop lexicon and try to have documents for next year.

Budget: \$600 to support web design of Chinese web site, printing ink and postage and calling cards

There was an up down vote to confirm all 19 Conference Committees. There was a quorum, 32/47 is quorum needed to confirm all 19 committees. Leon C. and Tom F. were the vote counters.

The vote was 33-0.

The committees listed are confirmed.

Anorexia (CAC)

By-Laws (CBC)

Conference Charter (CCC)

Diversity (CDC)

Finance (CFC)

Healthy Relationships (CHRC)

InterFellowship (CIFC)

Intergroup Communication (CICC)

Internet (CIC)

Literature (CLC)

Members' Relationship to BOT/FWS (CMRBOTC)

Members Retention (CMRC)

Prison Outreach (CPOC)

Public Information (CPIC)

Service (CSC)

Sponsorship (CSPC)

Steps and Traditions (CSTC)

the Journal (CJC)

Translation (CTC)

Thanks and gratitude was shared from the CCC, the BOT, and the FWS office to all the delegates.

There was time for announcements.

The session ended with the Serenity Prayer.