

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FWS CONFERENCES

January 14, 1984: Grace Episcopal Church, Newton, Massachusetts

Fourteen people said the opening Serenity Prayer at this historic event; the first annual Conference of SLAA. A History of the Fellowship Wide Business Meetings (FWBM) from 1981 to 1984 was given. The FWBM, composed of New England SLAA members, was the original group conscience for the fellowship as a whole. Other workshop topics were: Experiences Carrying the Message, Experiences Starting New Groups, The Experience of Recovery - Personal Stories, and Getting Current.

The Business Meeting was opened with eighteen people in attendance. During fiscal 1983 FWS experienced \$1,114.80 in income and \$633.42 in expenses.

A history of the SLAA book project (in progress since 1980) was given by the coordinating editor. Those with six months of sobriety cast written ballots to either approve or disapprove the publication of the manuscript. The vote was in favor of publication. However, group conscience requested that professional editing be sought for the book with final approval to reside with the Board. A committee was formed to develop a compensation plan for the book's authors and editors.

It was agreed that the 12th Step be changed from "all our affairs" to "all areas of our lives". A progress report from the San Francisco Bay Area (first meeting - August 9, 1982) accompanied the report of this Conference. The meeting ended with the Serenity Prayer.

January 13-14, 1985: Grace Episcopal Church, Newton, Mass.

Theme: Recovery Through Service

Workshops concerning Service at the Individual Level, Service at the Group Level, Service at the Intergroup Level, and Service at the FWS Level were presented to the 50 or so members present.

At the Business Meeting in the evening, an annual report was given. Financially, FWS reported \$1,788.55 in income and \$1,930.34 in expenses for 1984. A proposal to pay for the authoring and editing of the SLAA text was approved by those present. Voting was limited to those who met the six month sobriety requirement. A change in the Board rotation was made so that three new members would be elected each year. It was unanimously voted to devise and implement a delegate structure for the fellowship. The meeting ended with the Serenity Prayer.

Note: SLAA began in late December, 1976, and was incorporated on February 2, 1982.