

2020 ABM AGENDA

Motions and Items for Discussion

2020 S.L.A.A. Annual Business Meeting

July 28 – July 31, 2020

First Version – January 30, 2020

Date: January 30, 2020
To: S.L.A.A. members worldwide
From: Nora B., 2019-2020 Agenda Review Subcommittee (ARS) Chair
via e-mail at <http://www.slaafws.org/ABMAgendaEditor>
Phillip W., 2019-2020 Conference Charter Committee (CCC) Chair
via e-mail at <http://www.slaafws.org/committee/CCC>
Subject: 2020 ABM Agenda First Version Distribution

First Version:

This is the 2020 ABM Agenda First Version, containing all of the Items for Discussion (IFDs) on the 2019 ABM Agenda. These IFDs have been carried forward to the 2020 ABM Agenda. This 2020 ABM Agenda First Version is being distributed to the Fellowship worldwide for discussion of remaining 2019 ABM Agenda IFDs. This provides the opportunity for the Fellowship members worldwide to submit Motions based upon the IFD's discussed, and to encourage submission of appropriate new Motions and new IFDs for the 2020 ABM.

Motions submitted relevant to IFDs will retain the same place on the 2020 ABM Agenda as the IFD held on the 2019 ABM Agenda. If by the deadline for the 2020 ABM Agenda Second Version (March 30, 2020) no Motion is submitted relevant to an IFD, then it will be removed from the ABM Agenda. Motions can be submitted by any service body or individual, and multiple submissions are possible. As with all submissions, Motions received through this process are subject to the Agenda Review Subcommittee (ARS) Process.

In order for Motions and IFDs to have the optimal opportunity for discussion and feedback by Conference Committees, as well as Groups and Intergroups, prior to the 2020 ABM, submit Motions or IFDs to the ARS as soon as possible. The ARS has limited time to consider Motions and IFDs that are submitted after **May 29, 2020** and up to **7:00 pm July 28, 2020**. There is little or no time for the ARS to work with Submitters, where Motions or IFDs do not meet the ABM Agenda criteria, or to correct clerical errors.

The ARS members are available to assist anyone wishing to submit a Motion or an IFD for the 2020 ABM Agenda. Contact the CCC or the ARS for assistance, or if you have any questions. The current ARS Process was distributed as a separate attachment to the 2020 ABM Agenda First Version. It is also available online.

The ARS does not take any position on any Motion or IFD in relation to its content and does not make any recommendation for approval or lack of approval by the Conference.

Second Version

The 2020 ABM Agenda Second Version will be distributed to the Fellowship on **April 24, 2020**. The Second Version contains any Motions submitted relevant to IFD's discussed at the 2019 ABM. The Second Version also includes any Motions carried forward from 2019 that were not fully acted upon at the 2019 ABM. Finally, The Second Version adds any Motions or IFD's received after 7:00 pm July 23, 2019 that have been accepted onto the 2020 ABM Agenda. Conference Committees have the opportunity to submit comments about items appearing on the Second Version.

Third Version

The 2020 ABM Agenda Third Version will be distributed to the Fellowship worldwide on **June 13, 2020**. This Third Version will add Conference Committee feedback to Motions and IFDs appearing on the 2020 Second Version, as well as any Motions or IFD's that have been accepted onto the 2020 ABM Agenda since distribution of the Second Version.

Fourth Version

The 2020 ABM Agenda Fourth Version will be distributed on **July 29, 2020**, to those attending the 2020 ABM. This Fourth Version will add Motions and IFD's accepted onto the 2020 ABM Agenda between the time the Third Version was distributed and 7:00 pm July 28, 2020.

Respectfully,

Nora B.
2019 – 2020 ARS Chair

Explanation of Agenda Motion or IFD numbers:

Example: 19o#/18-#

20o#/19-# Current year's (last 2 digits of the year) ABM Agenda Motion/IFD number is shown before the slash (/).
o designates an ABM Agenda Motion/IFD related to an ABM Agenda Motion/IFD from the previous year.
n designates a new ABM Agenda Motion/IFD submitted for the first time this year.

20o#/19-# Year Motion/IFD originated and order on that year's ABM Agenda is shown after the slash (/)

Explanation of vote tallies:

Example: # – # – #

For – Against – Abstain

Explanation of the Conference Year for Conference Committees:

The 2019 Conference Year started on the last day of the 2018 ABM and was active through all but the last day of the 2019 ABM (July 26, 2019). The 2020 Conference Year started on the last day of the 2019 ABM (July 26, 2019) and will be active through all but the last day of the 2020 ABM (July 31, 2020).

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES (and their abbreviations)

Anorexia	(CAC)	Literature	(CLC)
By-Laws	(CBC)	Members Retention	(CMRC)
Charter	(CCC)	Public Information	(CPIC)
Diversity	(CDC)	Service	(CSC)
Finance	(CFC)	Sponsorship	(CSPC)
Healthy Relationships	(CHRC)	Steps, Traditions, and Concepts	(CSTCC)
Intergroup Communication	(CICC)	<i>the Journal</i>	(CJC)
		Translation and International Outreach	(CTIOC)

Draft literature related to a Motion or IFD in this ABM Agenda may be found in the ABM Agenda Attachments document.

<p>20o01/19-02</p>	<p>Item for Discussion:</p> <p><u>ENTER WHAT THE ITEM IS:</u> We are submitting six draft chapters from the S.L.A.A. 12&12 Book, a work in progress. As we continue to work on this project, we would like to hear feedback from the Conference on these six chapters.</p> <p><u>ENTER THE INTENT OF ITEM:</u> The intent of this project is to publish a book containing one essay on each Step and each Tradition. We feel the book will be used as a discussion guide in meetings and as a help in understanding and practicing the Steps and the Traditions.</p> <p><u>ENTER THE REQUIREMENTS IF THE ITEM IS ACTED UPON:</u> There will be no cost and no labor this coming year. Eventually the book will need to be printed, stored, distributed. We do expect sales from this book will offset all costs.</p>		<p>Committee Comments: CLC approved this draft (CLC #004).</p>
<p>20o02/19-03</p>	<p>Item for Discussion:</p> <p><u>ENTER WHAT THE ITEM IS:</u> The 'HOW Step and Sponsorship Guide'</p> <p>The Conference Literature Committee and the UK Intergroup request that the following literature relating to the S.L.A.A. H.O.W. way of working the S.L.A.A. program be approved:</p> <p>'HOW Step and Sponsorship Guide'</p> <p><u>ENTER THE INTENT OF ITEM:</u></p> <p>The H.O.W. Writing Group would like to present the 'HOW Step and Sponsorship Guide' for discussion and feedback from the fellowship regarding its content and the effectiveness of using it to work the 12 steps in S.L.A.A.</p>		<p>Committee Comments: CLC approved this draft (CLC #050).</p>

<p>20o02/19-03 Continued from previous page</p>	<p>Background This document has been successfully used by thousands of people all over the world over a period of 22 years. Many that have used it have found that they are able to maintain bottom-line sobriety and that the structure of the approach has supported them through the pain of addiction and withdrawal to discover new ways of being and living.</p> <p>The approach relies on specific tools of recovery and the message of the importance of these tools is repeated in the preamble at H.O.W. format meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Working the steps with a sponsor ● Maintenance of bottom-line sobriety as agreed with a sponsor ● Making three outreach calls per day ● Attending three meetings per week ● Service ● Prayer and meditation <p>From the beginning, newcomers are encouraged to get a sponsor. We believe that due to the emphasis on sponsorship and the fact that sponsees are supported in becoming sponsors early on in their recovery, this has a great impact on the availability of sponsors, the number of fellows actively working the step and member retention. In the UK, the number of meetings has doubled since the introduction of this approach. Also, the focus on attending meetings and making outreach helps to strengthen the bonds within the fellowship and fellows find that they are able to get well within the support of the fellowship rather than in isolation.</p> <p>One of the distinctive aspects of this approach is the structure. Those who have worked the program in this way have benefited from its clarity, as well as the structure providing a safe space for the addict to work through their step work.</p> <p>Discussion The S.L.A.A. H.O.W. approach was developed in Australia over 22 years ago by S.L.A.A. fellows who had used the H.O.W. format in other</p>		
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<p>20o02/19-03 Continued from previous page</p>	<p>fellowships. This approach has been used successfully since then by thousands of sex and love addicts all over the world and has spread to the UK, France, Ireland, Poland and some Asian countries.</p> <p>Although this document was originally taken from OA HOW, it has been modified and adapted over many years by S.L.A.A. fellows to suit the needs of this specific fellowship. As such, this is not an outside document but one that has been used and crafted over many years within S.L.A.A.</p> <p>In addition to the edits based on feedback from those using the materials, we have also removed some of the AA Big Book references and replaced them with S.L.A.A. Basic Text references following feedback from our CLC liaison.</p> <p>With reference to Tradition One of the Twelve Traditions:</p> <p>“Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon S.L.A.A. unity.”</p> <p>We are not suggesting that this approach should be used by everyone, we are suggesting that it is available to everyone and used by those who choose to use it, therefore reinforcing that we are one fellowship with a range of ways available to work the steps.</p> <p><u>ENTER THE REQUIREMENTS IF THE ITEM IS ACTED UPON:</u> N/A</p>		
<p>20o03/19-05</p>	<p>Item for Discussion:</p> <p><u>ENTER WHAT THE ITEM IS:</u> A Service brochure to encourage individuals to either give service or to stay and mentor others into giving Service. It’s being referred to as the “Super Service Dog Brochure.” The CSC worked on this brochure as an updated version of the Service cartoon brochure from about ten years ago. CSC</p>		<p>Committee Comments: CLC approved this draft (CLC #049).</p>

<p>20o03/19-05 Continued from previous page</p>	<p>brought this document to CLC. The CLC Supported and passed on 2/23/19 to move it forward to ARS. We would like to hear feedback from the Conference on the brochure and its content along with the idea for intent.</p> <p><u>ENTER THE INTENT OF ITEM:</u> Development of projects is hindered by lack of individuals doing service. This is to encourage individuals to increase service or try service. Input is needed to improve the pamphlet's message. The intent of this project is to offer it as one of the FREE downloadable documents on the F.W.S. Website and possibly including it with all literature orders placed from the F.W.S. Store.</p> <p><u>ENTER THE REQUIREMENTS IF THE ITEM IS ACTED UPON:</u></p> <p>There will be no cost if this is a free downloadable document. If it is supported to offer it to include with all literature orders placed with F.W.S. then the cost would only be minimal, based on the amount of orders placed in each year. This draft would continue to follow the Conference Service Manual's Appendix "J" How S.L.A.A. Literature becomes Conference Approved.</p>		
<p>20o04/19-06</p>	<p>Item for Discussion:</p> <p><u>ENTER WHAT THE ITEM IS:</u> That the Conference discusses changing the S.L.A.A. 11th Tradition wording, by adding "social media" to the list "...press, radio, TV, film, and other public media."</p> <p>Suggested new wording of the 11th tradition: "Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, TV, film, social media and other public media. We need guard with special care the anonymity of all fellow S.L.A.A. members."</p>		

<p>20o04/19-06 Continued from previous page</p>	<p><u>ENTER THE INTENT OF ITEM:</u> The proposal intends to give guidance regarding S.L.A.A. anonymity. Our spiritual foundation also applies to social media. The use of social media today is so widespread and frequent in society that an addition is motivated.</p> <p><u>ENTER THE REQUIREMENTS IF THE ITEM IS ACTED UPON:</u> Discussing this topic requires no resources from the Fellowship.</p>		
<p>20o05/19-08</p>	<p>Item for Discussion:</p> <p><u>ENTER WHAT THE ITEM IS:</u> To discuss the project development and budgeting process for Conference Committees.</p> <p><u>ENTER THE INTENT OF ITEM:</u> At each year’s ABC/M, Conference Committees work diligently and energetically to plan projects for the following year. These committees submit budget proposals tied to specific projects to the Conference Finance Committee. The Board of Trustees approves a total budget amount for Conference Committees and then the Conference Finance Committee allocates that total. Over the course of the following months, enthusiasm for projects wanes, Conference Committee membership changes, and very little of the approved budgets are spent. For the Fiscal Year that began October 1, 2018, \$6,970 was approved and allocated, but only \$396.25 has been spent at the time of this writing. What are some ways Conference Committees can be supported with their projects over the course of each year? Are there alternative ways for Conference Committees to budget for various projects at the ABC/M and throughout the year? Are there additional aspects of the project planning and budgeting process that need to be reviewed, discussed, and/or updated?</p> <p><u>ENTER THE REQUIREMENTS IF THE ITEM IS ACTED UPON:</u> As an IFD, there is no direct cost associated with this item.</p>		

<p>20o06/19-09</p>	<p>Item for Discussion:</p> <p><u>ENTER WHAT THE ITEM IS:</u></p> <p>Discussion of amending the Conference Service Manual in order to limit editing of Conference-Approved Literature to no more than 3% of content.</p> <p><u>ENTER THE INTENT OF ITEM:</u></p> <p>One objective is to facilitate timely production and distribution of Conference-Approved Literature as approved by the Conference Literature Committee (CLC) and the Conference, per the principles of the Twelve Concepts.</p> <p>Secondly, we trust the CLC and its writing partners to write and edit high quality literature that, once Conference approved, will be ready for publication. However, the post Conference- approval process allows editing by the BOT of up to 25% (a 40-page booklet could have every word of 10 full pages rewritten). This could be a major rewrite of what the S.L.A.A. Conference has approved, as written by the CLC and its writing partners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “A State of Grace: Daily Meditations”, a book that the Fellowship approved at the 2018 ABM (Vote 45-0-2 binding on the Board), has been in editing for over 10 months (post Conference- approval). • Anorexia 4,5,6,7 which was Conference approved at the 2018 ABM (Vote 44-0-2 binding on the Board), has been delayed in editing for nearly a year (post-Conference-approval). • Similarly, the previous year, the “Companion to Chapter 4” and the “Anorexia Tools” were also delayed by close to one year. <p>The current process for literature after Conference approval includes inconsistencies with the Twelve Concepts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Concept 1</u> states, "Ultimate responsibility and authority for S.L.A.A. world services always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship." <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ultimate responsibility and authority for “Conference-Approved Literature” resides with the 		
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<p>20o06/19-09 Continued from previous page</p>	<p>Conference, and the group conscious of that body, as directed by a loving God.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Concept 3</u> states, To ensure effective leadership, each element of S.L.A.A. - the Conference, the Board of Trustees, staff, and committees - all possess the "Right of Decision." <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have assured those who work on our Conference Committees, such as the CLC and its writing committees, the 'Right of Decision', but the process we are currently using lacks balance between responsibility and authority. • <u>Concept 10</u> states, "Every service responsibility is matched by equal service authority – the scope of this authority is always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and by-laws." <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Conference Literature Committee and its writing groups are working hard and long to create literature. They have the responsibility and authority to do so. The post-Conference-approval editing of 25% of a text is in essence a duplication of the CLC's writing group's authority and responsibility. <p><u>ENTER THE REQUIREMENTS IF THE ITEM IS ACTED UPON:</u> As an IFD, there is no direct cost associated with this item. The only requirement for this topic would be the need for time to be set aside at the ABC/M for a thorough discussion, and capture of the Conference's feedback.</p>		
<p>20o07/19-10</p>	<p>Item for Discussion:</p> <p><u>ENTER WHAT THE ITEM IS:</u> The Conference By-Laws Committee (CBC) is looking for direction from the Conference as to the wording to use in portions of the Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous (S.L.A.A.) By-Laws. "He" or "she" is used in only a few places.</p>		

<p>20o07/19-10 Continued from previous page</p>	<p>Specifically, in Article III (Membership), Section 3 (Delegate Members), last sentence: “Each delegate member shall hold membership as long as she or he remains qualified for membership, as described in Article V, Section 5 of these By-Laws”, and in much of Article X (Indemnification of Directors and Officers). Usually “person”, “member” or “individual” is used.</p> <p><u>ENTER THE INTENT OF ITEM:</u> In reviewing the By-Laws of the Fellowship, it was determined that there are only a few instances of “he” or “she” in the By-Laws (i.e. Article III, Section 3 and Article X). The crafters of the By-laws were very circumspect about language. When the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions were adapted for S.L.A.A. great care was shown when it came to the words used. No pronouns were used for “God” or “Power greater than ourselves”. The CBC would like direction about what to do with these differing sections.</p> <p><u>ENTER THE REQUIREMENTS IF THE ITEM IS ACTED UPON:</u> If the Conference comes to consensus on new terms, little expense will be required. The CBC can draft a By-Laws Motion for the next ABM. If that Conference votes to adopt the change, a nominal amount of labor will be required of the Webmaster to place the newly updated By-Laws on the Fellowship-Wide Services site. And informing the Fellowship of the updated version if they need to be posted in other locations.</p>		
<p>20o08/19-11</p>	<p>Item for Discussion:</p> <p><u>ENTER WHAT THE ITEM IS:</u> Discussion whether the Board of Trustees be directed to create an Archivist position as part of the FWS staff who would be responsible for collecting, categorizing, and identifying ways to maintain the Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous (S.L.A.A.) archives to preserve the history of S.L.A.A. and its development from inception to present day.</p>		

<p>20n08/19-11 Continued from previous page</p>	<p><u>ENTER THE INTENT OF ITEM:</u> We are looking for input from the 2019 Conference members as to whether there should be a central person/location responsible for assisting FWS in preserving S.L.A.A. history in the form of an Archive.</p> <p>Currently there are a lot of materials being held by individuals and members of various S.L.A.A. Intergroups around the world. It is important to have this information centralized and categorized, in essence, creating an Archive. As an Archive, this collection of materials would build a more cohesive understanding of how the S.L.A.A. program has evolved. Early materials from the time of the organization's founding, and the many iterations since then, are the basis of much of our program's current literature, publications, policies, and recommendations for growth as a fellowship. Preserving and having access to this comprehensive history is important for the organization's continued growth, and to be sure that we learn from our past.</p> <p>It may be of interest to members to know that Alcoholics Anonymous has service positions of archivist at the national, regional and local service levels and maintains an archive at its Central Service in New York City. This effort is supported at the Board level and a line item is included in the annual budget to fund it.</p> <p>There are many AA materials available electronically to all who are interested. Below is a link to one of their publications. (https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/mg-17_archives.pdf)</p> <p><u>ENTER THE REQUIREMENTS IF THE ITEM IS ACTED UPON:</u> As an IFD, there is no direct cost associated with this item. The only requirement for this topic would be the need for time to be set aside at the ABC/M for a thorough discussion and capture of the feedback.</p>		
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<p>20o09/19-12</p>	<p>Item for Discussion:</p> <p><u>ENTER WHAT THE ITEM IS:</u></p> <p>Conference discussion regarding the process for drafting, editing, and approving literature for the benefit of our Fellowship. There are concerns with the volume of literature being put forward by the Conference Literature Committee, the quality of literature being produced, and the timeline/process for review and incorporation of feedback.</p> <p><u>ENTER THE INTENT OF ITEM:</u></p> <p>Our Intergroup is requesting greater transparency regarding what pieces of literature are prioritized, how these are drafted and edited within the committee, and for a clear process of gathering and incorporating feedback from the Fellowship at large. We feel that all members of the Fellowship have an interest in insuring a very high level of quality in our Conference-Approved Literature.</p> <p><u>ENTER THE REQUIREMENTS IF THE ITEM IS ACTED UPON:</u></p> <p>Discussing this topic requires no resources from the Fellowship.</p>		
<p>20o10/19-14</p>	<p>Item for Discussion:</p> <p><u>ENTER WHAT THE ITEM IS:</u></p> <p>Should the “Dating Workbook” be developed as possible Conference-Approved Literature.</p> <p><u>ENTER THE INTENT OF ITEM:</u></p> <p>Discussion and feedback provided at the 2018 ABC/M was that the document shouldn’t be included in the “Step Questions Workbook”. Seeking information about whether or not the new version would be acceptable as a standalone document.</p> <p><u>ENTER THE REQUIREMENTS IF THE ITEM IS ACTED UPON:</u></p> <p>As an IFD, there is no direct cost associated with this item. The only requirement for this topic would be the need for time to be set aside at the ABC/M for a thorough discussion and capture of the feedback.</p>		<p>Committee Comments: CLC approved this draft (CLC #015a).</p>