2023 S.L.A.A. Annual Business Meeting, August 1-4, 2023

Fourth Version – August 2, 2023

Date: August 2, 2023

To: S.L.A.A. members worldwide

From: David B., 2022-2023 Agenda Review Subcommittee (ARS) Chair

via e-mail at http://www.slaafws.org/ABMAgendaEditor

Nora B., 2022-2023 Conference Charter Committee (CCC) Chair

via e-mail at http://www.slaafws.org/contact/CCC

Subject: 2023 ABM Agenda Fourth Version Distribution

Fourth Version:

This is the 2023 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) Agenda Fourth Version. The 2022 ABM Agenda Fourth Version will be distributed on **August 2, 2023**, to those attending the 2023 ABM. This Fourth Version will add Motions/FD's accepted onto the 2023 ABM Agenda between the time the Third Version was distributed and 7:00 pm Pacific Time August 01, 2023.

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 2023 ABM, please submit Motions/IFDs to the ARS as soon as possible. The ARS has limited time to consider Motions/IFDs that are submitted after June 2, 2023 and up to 7:00 PM local time on the first day of the ABM (August 1, 2023). There is little or no time for the ARS to work with Submitters, where Motions/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/IFD for the 2023 ABM Agenda. Contact the Conference Charter Committee (CCC) or the ARS for assistance, or if you have any questions. The current ARS Process is distributed as a separate attachment to the 2023 ABM Agenda Fourth Version. It is also available online.

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

<u>Note About Agenda Attachments:</u> Draft literature and other supporting documentation is provided in an attachment to the agenda. The 2023 ABM agenda has a large number of pages. In order to reduce the file sizes and printing costs, the 2023 ABM Agenda attachment has been divided into two documents. One has only draft literature. The other has supporting documents for other motions.

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First Version:

The First Version of the 2023 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) Agenda contains the Motions and Items for Discussion (IFDs) on the 2022 ABM Agenda that were not fully acted upon by the Conference at the 2022 ABM. It also provides an opportunity for the Fellowship members worldwide to submit Motions based upon the IFDs discussed and to encourage submission of appropriate new Motions and new IFDs for the Second Version of the 2023 ABM Agenda.

Second Version:

The Second Version contains Motions/IFDs carried forward from 2022 that were not fully acted upon at the 2022 ABM. The Second Version also contains Motions submitted relevant to Items for Discussion (IFD) discussed at the 2022 ABM. Finally, the Second Version contains any Motions or IFDs received after 7:00 pm August 9, 2022 that have been accepted onto the 2023 ABM Agenda. Conference Committees have the opportunity to submit comments about Motions/IFDs appearing on this Second Version.

Third Version:

The ABM Agenda Third Version adds Conference Committee feedback to Motions and IFDs appearing on the ABM Agenda Second Version, as well as any Motions or IFD's that have been accepted onto the current ABM Agenda since distribution of the ABM Agenda Second Version.

Fourth Version:

The 2023 ABM Agenda Fourth Version will be distributed on the second day of the ABM to those attending the 2023 ABM. This Fourth Version will add Motions and IFDs accepted onto the 2023 ABM Agenda between the time the Third Version was distributed and 7:00 pm local time on the first day of the ABM (August 1, 2023).

Respectfully,

David B. 2022-2023 ARS Chair

2023 ABM AGENDA

Motions and Items for Discussion

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Explanation of Agenda Item numbers:

Example: 190#/18-#

220#/20-# Current year's 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.

220#/20-# 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 2022-2023 CCC started on the last day of the 2022 ABM and was active through all but the last day of the 2023 ABM.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES (and their abbreviations)

Anorexia By-Laws Charter Diversity Finance Healthy Relationships Intergroup Communication Journal	(CAC) (CBC) (CCC) (CDC) (CFC) (CHRC) (CICC) (CJC)	Literature Members Retention Public Information Service Sponsorship Steps, Traditions, and Concepts Translation and International Outreach	(CLC) (CMRC) (CPIC) (CSC) (CSPC) (CSTCC) (CTIOC)	
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Draft literature related to a Motion or IFD in this Agenda may be found in the Literature Attachments document.

Supporting documents related to other Motions or IFDs on this Agenda may be found in the Non-Literature Attachments document.

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23001/22-04	Item for Discussion: To receive comments and suggestions from delegates on the text of the "Sex and Love Addiction on the Internet" Pamphlet. Intent: Very little has been written on this topic and therefore there is great need for guidance in this area. This pamphlet explains how digital and online devices, sites, and apps can accelerate and enable sex and love addiction. For those who are unsure if your online sexual and romantic activities indicate an unhealthy addictive pattern this pamphlet can help provide clarity. This pamphlet offers practical solutions that we have found in S.L.A.A. as well. Requirements if IFD is acted upon: As an IFD, there is no direct cost associated with this item. The only requirement for this item would be the need for time to be set aside at the ABC/M for a thorough discussion and capture of the feedback.	Approved for the 2022 ABC/M but not discussed	2022 ARS: The ARS approved this submission 3-0-0.
23002/22-05	Item for Discussion: The purpose of this Item For Discussion (IFD) is to seek guidance from the Fellowship about a section of the By-Laws that are confusing. The By-Laws mention Fellowship-Wide Services, Inc. (F.W.S.) staff in a way that is unclear and needs clarification. To wit: 1. Article V – The Fellowship-Wide Services S.L.A.A. Conference Charter, Section 2 – Composition	Approved for the 2022 ABC/M but not discussed	2022 ARS: The ARS approved this submission 3-0-0.

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23o02/22-05 Continued from previous page

- a. The voting body of the Conference shall be composed of delegate member(s) and members of the Board of Trustees, senior staff as interpreted by the Board of Trustees, members of the F.W.S. Administrative Staff, the Chair of the Conference Charter Committee, and the Journal editor.
- b. Specifically: "senior staff as interpreted by the Board of Trustees, members of the FWS Administrative Staff and the Journal editor.

Section 2 – Composition, needs clarification. This is confusing because the "Staff" is being referred to twice in the same sentence in different ways. And F.W.S. Administrative Staff includes the Office Assistant, yet she has not been considered a member of the Conference. And the Office Assistant has not been sent to an ABM in years even though the By-Laws clearly state that "Administrative Staff" ARE members of the Conference... Perhaps stop at "senior staff as interpreted by the Board of Trustees". Maybe it would be better to state exactly which "Staff" is being talked about. Such as using Executive Director/General Manager (ED/GM), Webmaster, etc. to make the point.

Intent:

The CBC is looking for guidance from the ABM Conference (Concept 2 – "the voice and conscience of the Fellowship") on how best to define the F.W.S. Staff in a less confusing or redundant way.

Requirements if IFD is acted upon:

There will be no associated cost for this IFD. Only some time set aside at the ABM to discuss this issue. The CBC will take the input of the ABM Conference and draft a By-Laws Motion to capture all the clarifications that were brought up at the ABM.

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23003/22-06	Item for Discussion: The purpose of this Item for Discussion (IFD) is to seek guidance from the Fellowship about a section of the By-Laws that is unclear. The By-Laws mentions how the Annual Business Conference "advises" the Board and the Fellowship-Wide Services, Inc. (F.W.S.) office staff in all matters.	Approved for the 2022 ABC/M but not discussed	2022 ARS: The ARS approved this submission 3-0-0.
	To wit:		
	2. Art. V – The Fellowship-Wide Services S.L.A.A. Conference Charter, Section 7 - The Fellowship-Wide Services Conference" General Procedures and Practices, part 'b': a. "Advise with the Board of Trustees and office staff upon all matters affecting S.L.A.A. as a whole."		
	Does the Conference advise the Office Assistant on how to answer phone calls, open mail, or other work? Will the Conference tell the Mail Clerk how to do their job? Or is it just the General Manager/Executive Director (GM/ED) that is being advised on how to do the will of the Fellowship? Maybe it would be better to state exactly which "Staff" is being talked about. Consider using Executive Director/General Manager (ED/GM), Webmaster, etc. to make the point. Or does the Conference want to just leave it alone to keep this part of the By-Laws more open ended? It is the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) Conference that has been delegated the Responsibility and Authority (Concept 1 and Concept 2) to advise office staff.		
	Intent:		
	The Conference By-Laws Committee (CBC) is looking for guidance from the ABM Conference (Concept 2 – "the voice and conscience of the		

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23o03/22-06 Continued from previous page	Fellowship") as to the best way to explain which Office Staff is being advised in a clear, concise, and/or accurate way. Requirements if IFD is acted upon: There will be no associated cost for this IFD. Only some time set aside at the ABM to discuss this issue. The CBC will take the input of the ABM Conference and draft a By-Laws Motion to capture all the clarifications that were brought up at the ABM.		
23004/22-07	By-Laws Motion: How the section of the By-Laws to be changed currently reads: Article V – The Fellowship-Wide Services S.L.A.A. Conference Charter, Section 6 - The Fellowship-Wide Services Conference Meetings (only the last sentence): The Conference will pass an issue Mail or telephone polls may also be used at any time to render advisory opinions. . The new wording, using "strikethrough and underline" format, into the section of the By-Laws proposed to be changed: Article V – The Fellowship-Wide Services S.L.A.A. Conference Charter, Section 6 - The Fellowship-Wide Services Conference Meetings (only the last sentence): The Conference will pass an issue Mail, er telephone, and email polls may also be used at any time to render advisory opinions.	Approved for the 2022 ABC/M but not discussed	2022 ARS: The ARS approved this submission 3-0-0.

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23o04/22-07 Continued	How the By-Laws will appear if the change is adopted:		
from previous page	Article V – The Fellowship-Wide Services S.L.A.A. Conference Charter, Section 6 - The Fellowship-Wide Services Conference Meetings (only the last sentence):		
	The Conference will pass an issue Mail, telephone, and email polls may also be used at any time to render advisory opinions.		
	Intent:		
	The intent of this By-Laws Change Motion is to bring this part of the By-Laws in line with current technological practices. IF an advisory opinion is needed, the Board, the Fellowship-Wide Services (F.W.S.) Office, and/or the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) Conference will most likely use an email poll to gain that feedback.		
	Requirements if the By-Laws change is adopted:		
	Change the By-Laws.		
	If the By-Laws Motion is accepted, it will take the Webmaster a nominal amount of time to update the F.W.S. website and place the amended By-Laws there. And a small amount of time for the Office Staff to place those By-Laws in the Delegate Binder and the Board Manual. It will also require a bit of time from the Conference Charter Committee (CCC) to place the updated By-Laws into the Conference Service Manual for participants of service.		

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23005/22-08	Motion:	Approved for the 2022 ABC/M but	2022 ARS: The ARS approved this
	To adopt the following as Core Documents of S.L.A.A.: "What is Anorexia in S.L.A.A." excerpted from the Anorexia Sexual, Social, Emotional pamphlet, and the 50 Questions from the "Are You Anorectic" section of the Anorexia pamphlet.	not discussed	submission 3-0-0.
	Intent:		
	A common question when people first hear about anorexia in S.L.A.A. is "what is anorexia?" According to the Anorexia: Sexual, Social, Emotional pamphlet, anorexia can be difficult to recognize, difficult to detect, and difficult to understand. Anorexia can also be an inherent and integral part of sex and love addiction. Because the concept of anorexia in S.L.A.A. is frequently unfamiliar to newcomers, including "What is Anorexia in S.L.A.A.1" and "Am I Anorexic? 50 Questions for Self-Diagnosis²" in the foundational Core Documents of S.L.A.A. will raise awareness of anorexia within the fellowship, increase understanding of anorexia, and help people to identify as anorexics and know that recovery is available in this program. There is a limited amount of easily accessible, free information on anorexia via the FWS website. What is available is hard to find unless you know: 1. that anorexia is an aspect of sex and love addiction,		
	2. what to look for, and 3. where to look.		
	Additional Justification for Core Document Designation: • Anorexia information is necessary for conducting a meeting (introducing the concept), and for starting an Anorexia meeting, one of the more common "focus" meetings.		

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23o05/22-08 Continued from previous page	 The information is not just for people who identify as anorexic - it is helpful for general understanding and awareness - for example sponsoring someone who is anorexic if you are not. The Anorexia pamphlet itself indicates that Anorexia can be difficult to recognize, difficult to detect, and difficult to understand. Additional information: Appendix A – "About the documents/History of this motion/History of core documents" Appendix B – "What Is Anorexia in S.L.A.A.?" Appendix C – "Am I Anorexic? – 50 Questions for Self Diagnosis" 1 https://www.slaafws.org/kb/general/faqs/what-is-anorexia (link as of April 10, 2022) 2 https://www.slaafws.org/download/CACAmIAnorexic %2050Questions.pdf (link as of April 10, 2022) Requirements if the Motion is acted upon: These items would be added to the Core Documents section of the FWS website and would need to be translated into the same languages as the other Core Documents. 		
23006/22-09	Item for Discussion: Article VI – Board of Trustees, Section 7 – Notice of Meetings: 3 rd and 4 th sentences:	Approved for the 2022 ABC/M but not discussed	2022 ARS: The ARS approved this submission 3-0-0.

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Third: Notice sent by mail shall be mailed at least 72 hours before the meeting.

Fourth: Notice sent by email or given by telephone or by leaving such notice as aforesaid, shall be sent or given as the case may be, at least 24 hours before the meeting.

This is not current practice of Board notices (the BOT meeting schedule is decided for the Conference-Year at the 1st meeting held right after the conclusion of the ABM).

The State of Texas statutes dealing with Board of Trustee Notice of Meetings states, "not later than the third day before the date of the meeting". The S.L.A.A. By-Laws hold a higher standard of "at least 72 hours before". But, a notice sent by email may be sent "at least 24 hours before the meeting." There is no distinction between email notice and mail notice in the Texas statutes.

Therefore, the By-Laws Committee is looking for input from the ABM Conference about what to do with this section. The CBC recommends aligning the two notices to match the "at least 72 hours before" wording.

Legal requirements of 'notice of meeting' to Boards of Trustees in Texas law states, "not later than the third day before the date of the meeting".

The CBC recommends have the Mail and Email times line up with the "72 hours before" protocol.

Intent:

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23o06/22-09 Continued from previous page	The Conference By-Laws Committee (CBC) is looking for direction from the Fellowship about how best to keep the By-Laws looking fair, just, and spiritually-centered. The CBC is also looking for a way to keep the By-Laws in line with current technology. Requirements if IFD is acted upon: There would be no cost to include this IFD on the ABM Agenda. Just time set aside at the ABM General Assemblies for discussion. With input from the ABM Conference Members, the CBC will be able to draft a Motion if this is what is needed.		
23007/22-10	Item for Discussion: To receive comments and suggestions from delegates on the text of "Anorexia 10-11-12; Working the Program and Not the Problem", which was an IFD last year - however was tabled due to the Conference running out of time. Intent:	Approved for the 2022 ABC/M but not discussed	2022 ARS: The ARS approved this submission 3-0-0.
	To help all members of S.L.A.A. who are struggling with Anorexia to work Steps 10-12. This text is a continuation of the very successful Anorexia 12 Step Series.		
	The newly created CLC Style Committee, and the Anorexia Writing Group have worked tirelessly and collaboratively in this past interim year, to extensively edit this document to be publication ready.		
	Requirements if Item is acted upon:		
	There are no costs associated with this IFD. Only time to discuss the matter will be required.		

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23o10/21-19	Motion:	This motion was an IFD at the	2023 ARS: The ARS approved this
	The Board Publishing and Distribution Committee (BPDC) seeks Conference and Fellowship-wide approval of the report of its Literature	2022 ABC/M.	submission 3-0-1.
	Creation, Editing and Publishing subcommittee (LCEP) on the process used		Committee Comments:
	to create Conference Approved Literature from the initial proposal through Board of Trustees publishing. The current process is detailed in Appendices		The Conference Literature Committee is in support of this
	H and I to the Conference Service Manual.		motion. This process will align the Conference Literature
	Intent:		Committee and the Board of Trustees in a collaborative
	The LCEP has been working for the better part of three years. The Board of Trustees (BOT) created the LCEP as part of the BOT's legal and fiduciary responsibility to supervise all publications of the fellowship. The LCEP has reviewed and incorporated comments received at the 2022 ABM on the IFD submitted then. This proposed LCEP process will 1) improve the quality of manuscripts reaching the Conference, 2) build collaboration between all participants in the literature creation and publishing process, 3) ensure that literature presented for conference approval has been edited and meets the style guidelines, and 4) ensures that the editing process does not change the sense or meaning of the literature. We believe rigorous adherence to this process will reduce the peaks and valleys of page volume delegates are required to evaluate each year.		process of literature creation and publication.
	Requirements if Item is acted upon:		
	The LCEP Report is in the form of a draft flowchart (included as an Attachment to this Motion) that would replace Appendices H and I should it receive necessary approvals. The LCEP Report also includes as part of the attachments 1) an appeal process; 2) a description of a CLC subcommittee, the Style Subcommittee; and 3) a description of the Production Editor position which are all referenced in the flowchart. If this motion is passed		

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23o10/21-19 Continued from previous page	the literature creation process in the CSM (Appendices H and I) would be replaced with this process and the additional descriptions of a Production Editor position, the Style committee and an appeal process would be available in the CSM.		
23013/22-02	Motion: Publish the "Making the Most of Meetings" Pamphlet, to sell as a resource for S.L.A.A. members. Intent: The observations, guidelines, and suggestions in this pamphlet are drawn from our years of attending and chairing S.L.A.A. meetings. We hope they will give new members a preview of what to expect at meetings, and help new members get as much as they can from attending. Requirements: Cost and labor for desktop publishing, printing, sales, storage, and shipping, and all other administration for publishing this pamphlet will be incurred by the F.W.S. Office.	This motion was an IFD at the 2022 ABC/M.	2023 ARS: The ARS approved this submission 3-0-1.
23n14/23-01	Motion: Approval of the book for Publication, A Framework for Living: The Twelve Steps, The Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts of Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous Intent: The project to create S.L.A.A.'s own "12 & 12" was introduced at the 2007 ABM. Input from fellowship members was encouraged and received since		2023 ARS: The ARS approved this submission 3-0-1.

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23n14/23-01 Continued from previous page	then. The manuscript was completed in August 2021. Comments were received at the 2022 ABM and addressed over the last several months. Those included: • Reviewed and addressed all "technical edits" from the 2022 Orange County delegate. • Rewrote the objectionable sentence on page 47. • Eliminated the story in the Step Seven chapter that was found confusing by some. • Accomplished close editing and some rewriting of the Concepts. • Reviewed published spiritual principles from a variety of Twelve-Step fellowships (AA, Alanon, OA, CODA, NA) as they relate to the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts. The text of A Framework for Living accurately reflects the spiritual principles of our three legacies. • Addressed miscellaneous individual comments. Requirements: Costs include desktop publishing, e-book creation, printing, and inventory management. Revenue from sales will more than exceed all costs.	
23n15/23-02	Item for Discussion: The 50th-Anniversary Basic Text Subcommittee (50BTS) of the Conference Literature Committee (CLC) is submitting this IFD to the Conference so that the fellowship may review edited chapters one through eight of the S.L.A.A. Basic Text and provide feedback on the proposed edits. Intent: During the 2021 ABM two items were discussed concerning what to change and how to change the 1986 S.L.A.A. Basic Text. The consensus appeared to be that the first edition of the Basic Text required editing for a 50th-	2023 ARS: The ARS approved this submission 3-0-1.

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23n15/23-02 Continued from previous page	anniversary edition. In 2022, the ABM discussed chapters one through four. Based upon that discussion, the 50BTS updated the draft of chapters one through four and completed a draft of chapters five through eight. The 50BTS seeks input from the Conference and the membership at large on the proposed edits. Feedback from the Conference at the ABM and other members during the Conference year is helpful as the 50BTS continues to review, edit, and prepare a 50th-anniversary edition of the S.L.A.A. Basic Text for publication in 2026. To prepare for this discussion, Conference members must read and consider the proposed edits and provide written feedback ahead of the ABM or be prepared to discuss the proposed edits at the ABM. Members of the fellowship at large are also encouraged to provide written feedback. Requirements: There is no cost associated with this IFD. Only time at the ABM to discuss the item is needed.	
23n16/23-03	By-Laws Motion: How the section of the By-Laws to be changed currently reads: Article XIV – Amendments, last sentence: "Any emergency By-Law adopted by the Trustees must be confirmed by a two-thirds vote of all authorized voters who have checked in at the Annual Business Conference." The new wording, using "strikethrough and underline" format, into the section of the By-Laws proposed to be changed: Article XIV – Amendments, last sentence:	2023 ARS: The ARS approved this submission 3-0-1.

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"Any emergency By-Law adopted by the Trustees must be confirmed by a two-thirds vote of all authorized voters who have checked in at the <u>next</u> Annual Business Conference/Meeting."

How the By-Laws will appear if the change is adopted:

Article XIV – Amendments, last sentence:

"Any emergency By-Law adopted by the Trustees must be confirmed by a two-thirds vote of all authorized voters who have checked in at the next Annual Business Conference/Meeting."

Intent:

(Identify the problem with the By-Laws as currently written and the objective that the change is intended to achieve, including arguments in favor of the Motion.)

There was concern on the By-Laws Committee that this statement was just a bit too vague and needed to be better clarified.

Requirements if the By-Laws change is adopted:

Change the By-Laws.

Once the Amended By-Laws are crafted by the CBC, reviewed, and verified for accuracy, the Amended By-Laws will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees to be reviewed and verified for accuracy. Then there will be a nominal amount of time needed by the Technology Director to place the Amended By-Laws on the Fellowship-Wide Services (F.W.S.) website. Finally, the Technology Director will forward these Amended By-Laws to the Executive Director for inclusion in the Board Manual, the Delegate Binder, and any other location where the By-Laws are physically placed.

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23n17/23-04	By-Laws Motion:	2023 ARS: The ARS approved this
	How the section of the By-Laws to be changed currently reads:	submission 3-0-1.
	Article X – Indemnification of Director and Officers [Paragraph 'c' only] c. By a majority of the members, not counting as a member any member who is an interested person.	
	The new wording, using "strikethrough and underline" format, into the section of the By-Laws proposed to be changed:	
	Article X – Indemnification of Director and Officers [Paragraph 'c' only] c. By a majority of the members Trustees, not counting as a member any member Trustee who is an interested person'.	
	How the By-Laws will appear if the change is adopted:	
	Article X – Indemnification of Director and Officers [Paragraph 'c' only] c. 'By a majority of the Trustees, not counting any Trustee who is an interested person'.	
	Intent:	
	This is a poorly written sentence. By changing a couple of words, this statement makes much more sense and is more easily understood and matches the language used in Sections a. and b.	
	Requirements if the By-Laws change is adopted:	

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23n17/23-04 Continued from previous page	Change the By-Laws. Once the Amended By-Laws are crafted by the CBC, reviewed, and verified for accuracy, the Amended By-Laws will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees to be reviewed and verified for accuracy. Then there will be a nominal amount of time needed by the Technology Director to place the Amended By-Laws on the Fellowship-Wide Services (F.W.S.) website. Finally, the Technology Director will forward these Amended By-Laws to the Executive Director for inclusion in the Board Manual, the Delegate Binder, and any other location where the By-Laws are physically placed.	
23n18/23-05	By-Laws Motion: How the section of the By-Laws to be changed currently reads: ARTICLE VIII - REMOVALS a. Trustees, including persons elected by Trustees to fill vacancies in the Board, may be removed from office with cause by the members or Trustees. b. Officers elected or appointed by the Trustees may be removed from their respective offices with cause by the Trustees. c. A Trustee or Officer may be removed for cause only after a reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard before the body proposing to remove said Officer. d. The Trustees may terminate the authority of any agent. The new wording, using "strikethrough and underline" format, into the section of the By-Laws proposed to be changed: ARTICLE VIII - REMOVALS	2023 ARS: The ARS approved this submission 3-0-1.

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- a. Trustees, including persons elected appointed by Trustees to fill vacancies in the Board, may be removed from office with cause by the members or Trustees.
- b. Officers elected or appointed by the Trustees may be removed from their respective offices with cause by the Trustees.
- c. A Trustee or Officer may be removed for cause only after a reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard before the body proposing to remove said <u>Trustee or</u> Officer.
- d. The Trustees may terminate the authority of any agent.

How the By-Laws will appear if the change is adopted:

ARTICLE VIII - REMOVALS

- a. Trustees, including persons appointed by Trustees to fill vacancies in the Board, may be removed from office with cause by the members or Trustees.
- b. Officers elected or appointed by the Trustees may be removed from their respective offices with cause by the Trustees.
- c. A Trustee or Officer may be removed for cause only after a reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard before the body proposing to remove said Trustee or Officer.
- d. The Trustees may terminate the authority of any agent.

Intent:

Article VIII – Removals, part "a" says that "persons elected by the Trustees to fill vacancies", that is called "appointed" in the Fellowship. A Trustee is elected at an Annual Business Meeting (ABM) by the members of the ABM Conference [trustees, senior staff as interpreted by the Board, Delegates, the Journal editor, and the CCC Chair].

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If there is a vacancy that needs to be filled. The Board may do that by "appointing" a person to address that vacancy. Though it is an election process, in Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, it is called 'appointment to the Board'. So, to keep the By-Laws in line with the processes and practices of the Fellowship, it needs to change to "appointed".

In Article VIII – Removals, part "c" has an omission. At the start of the sentence, it states: "A Trustee or Officer may..." and at the end of the sentence it states: "to remove said Officer." The term "Trustee" is missing. It is obvious that it refers to 'Trustee or Officer', but because the By-Laws are the established framework of the Fellowship, it is best to have as much clarity as possible.

The term "Members" has been previously defined in the By-Laws under Article III, Sections 1 -3; And "Agents" under Article VII, Section 3.

Requirements if the By-Laws change is adopted:

Change the By-Laws.

Once the Amended By-Laws are crafted by the CBC, reviewed, and verified for accuracy, the Amended By-Laws will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees to be reviewed and verified for accuracy. Then there will be a nominal amount of time needed by the Technology Director to place the Amended By-Laws on the Fellowship-Wide Services (F.W.S.) website. Finally, the Technology Director will forward these Amended By-Laws to the Executive Director for inclusion in the Board Manual, the Delegate Binder, and any other location where the By-Laws are physically placed.

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23n19/23-06	Item for Discussion: To receive comments and suggestions from delegates on the proposed edits to the pamphlet, Anorexia: Sexual, Social, Emotional. Intent: The goal of these revisions is to help all members of S.L.A.A. understand and learn about anorexia by improving the readability of the pamphlet and making the language more accessible. No new content was added. Edits in this draft include:	2023 ARS: The ARS approved this submission 3-0-1.	
	 replacing anorectic with anorexic replacing and/or rewording obsolete or difficult to read words to improve reading comprehension removing content regarding the F.W.S. office that no longer applies updating information about finding or starting an anorexia focus meeting 		
	The Clean Up and Clarify subcommittee of the CAC has worked diligently on this revision since 2019. The newly created CLC Style Committee has reviewed this draft and made additional minor edits. Requirements:		
	There are no costs associated with this IFD. Only time to discuss the matter will be required.		
23n20/23-07	Motion: Publish the "Twelve Steps of S.L.A.A. in Plain Language" for use by members as they practice the steps.	2023 ARS: The ARS approved this submission 3-0-1.	

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23n20/23-07 Continued from previous page	Intent: To help all members of S.L.A.A. who are struggling with the reading difficulty of the Basic Text. We feel that members who struggle with the reading level of the Basic Text will benefit from the Steps in plain language. This document was written to make reading the Twelve Steps accessible to all people including those who don't read at a college level.	
	The current version of CLC-003 The Twelve Steps of S.L.A.A. in Plain Language differs from the older version submitted to the 2022 ABM in several respects:	
	 Length has been shortened from 33 pages to 27 pages. The Conference Literature Committee Style Committee has completed an in-depth review. This resulted in a number of changes: a. Punctuation was changed to align with Garner's Modern English Usage. b. A significant number of wording changes were made to sharpen and clarify the language. c. In several instances, long paragraphs have been divided into two to make the text easier to read. d. On occasion, sentences were reordered within a given paragraph to make the ideas easier to follow. e. Words that were deemed inessential to convey the idea being presented were eliminated. 	
	Requirements if Motion is acted upon:	
	Cost and labor for desktop publishing, digital publishing, printing, sales, storage, and shipping, and all other administration for this new Book/Booklet will be incurred by the F.W.S. Office.	

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23n21/23-08	By-Laws Motion:	2023 ARS: The ARS approved this
	How the section of the By-Laws to be changed currently reads:	submission 3-0-0.
	ARTICLE V - THE FELLOWSHIP-WIDE SERVICES S.L.A.A. CONFERENCE CHARTER	
	Section 2 – Composition	
	The voting body of the Conference shall be composed of delegate member(s) and members of the Board of Trustees, senior staff as interpreted by the Board of Trustees, members of the F.W.S. Administrative Staff, the Chair of the Conference Charter Committee, and the Journal editor.	
	Section 8 – Definitions	
	a. "Annual Business Meeting" refers to the actual full-assembly business meetings at the Annual Business Conference of the Conference (Trustees, delegate members, F.W.S. Administrative staff, Conference Charter Committee Chair, and the Journal editor). b. "Annual Business Conference" refers to the once a year event at which the Conference (Trustees, delegate members, F.W.S. Administrative staff, Conference Charter Committee Chair, and the Journal editor) convenes to conduct the Annual Business Meeting.	
	The new wording, using "strikethrough and underline" format, into the section of the By-Laws proposed to be changed:	
	ARTICLE V - THE FELLOWSHIP-WIDE SERVICES S.L.A.A. CONFERENCE CHARTER	

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Section 2 - Composition

The voting body of the Conference shall be composed of delegate member(s) and members of the Board of Trustees, senior staff as interpreted by the Board of Trustees, members of the F.W.S. Administrative Staff, the Chair of the Conference Charter Committee, and the Journal editor—, and the Conference Literature Committee Representative.

Section 8 - Definitions

- a. "Annual Business Meeting" refers to the actual full-assembly business meetings at the Annual Business Conference of the Conference (Trustees, delegate members, F.W.S. Administrative staff, Conference Charter Committee Chair, and the Journal editor-, and the Conference Literature Committee Representative).
- b. "Annual Business Conference" refers to the once a year event at which the Conference (Trustees, delegate members, F.W.S. Administrative staff, Conference Charter Committee Chair, and the Journal editor, and the Conference Literature Committee Representative) convenes to conduct the Annual Business Meeting.

How the By-Laws will appear if the change is adopted:

ARTICLE V - THE FELLOWSHIP-WIDE SERVICES S.L.A.A. CONFERENCE CHARTER

Section 2 - Composition

The voting body of the Conference shall be composed of delegate member(s) and members of the Board of Trustees, senior staff as interpreted by the Board of Trustees, members of the F.W.S. Administrative

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Staff, the Chair of the Conference Charter Committee, the Journal editor, and the Conference Literature Committee Representative.

Section 8 - Definitions

- a. "Annual Business Meeting" refers to the actual full-assembly business meetings at the Annual Business Conference of the Conference (Trustees, delegate members, F.W.S. Administrative staff, Conference Charter Committee Chair, the Journal editor, and the Conference Literature Committee Representative).
- b. "Annual Business Conference" refers to the once a year event at which the Conference (Trustees, delegate members, F.W.S. Administrative staff, Conference Charter Committee Chair, the Journal editor, and the Conference Literature Committee Representative) convenes to conduct the Annual Business Meeting.

Intent:

In 2015 15002/14-06 Motion was passed which stated:

- 1. The Conference Literature Committee (CLC) will select a member who it feels it the best member to act as a Representative to the ABC/M. That CLC Member is to be sent to the ABM every year to represent the CLC. This person will not be a delegate from an Intergroup.
- 2. F.W.S will pay all cost, i.e., housing, (double occupancy), meals, travel, and the cost of registration (as it would for the CCC Chair and the Journal Editor).

The CLC plays a vital role to the Fellowship as a whole in integrating and disseminating the work accomplished by all the Committees and Delegates at the ABM. As a historical reference, other vital entities to the ABM have voting privileges, i.e., the Journal Editor and the CCC Chair. Changing this

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By-Law will ensure the CLC Representative has a voice during the entire voting process for conference literature because currently they cannot speak once a motion proceeds to hearing minority opinion (prior to a second or third vote.) Making the CLC Representative a voting member will ensure that all during the proceeding of voting on literature motions, the CLC will be able to have a voice to help Delegates and other voting members make informed decisions.

Requirements if the By-Laws change is adopted:

Change the bylaws. This will require the adoption of the change in Article V Section 2 - Composition of the Voting Conference section of the By-Laws by simply adding the "Conference Literature Committee Representative" to the composition of the voting members of the Conference.

Once the Amended By-Laws are crafted by the CBC, reviewed, and verified for accuracy, the Amended By-Laws will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees to be reviewed and verified for accuracy. Then there will be a nominal amount of time needed by the Technology Director to place the Amended By-Laws on the Fellowship-Wide Services (F.W.S.) website. Finally, the Technology Director will forward these Amended By-Laws to the Executive Director for inclusion in the Board Manual, the Delegate Binder, and any other location where the By-Laws are physically placed.

The adoption of the above-described By-Law will have no effect on the operations of the Conference. Expenditures associated with FWS sending the CLC Representative to the ABM are already in place.

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23n22/23-09	By-Laws Motion:	2023 ARS: The ARS approved this
	How the section of the By-Laws to be changed currently reads:	submission 3-0-1.
	ARTICLE I – Purpose, Section 3 – Twelve Recommended Guidelines, number 4:	
	The following are the Twelve Recommended Guidelines for Dealing with Media/Public Relations Opportunities for use at all levels of the S.L.A.AA. Fellowship:	
	 We try to avoid S.L.A.A. has no opinions Our public relations policy Any unilateral action, by any S.L.A.A. member acting on his/her own, to place S.L.A.A. before the public media, at any level is expressly discouraged. Group conscience-based 	
	The new wording, using "strikethrough and underline" format, into the section of the By-Laws proposed to be changed:	
	ARTICLE I – Purpose, Section 3 – Twelve Recommended Guidelines, number 4:	
	The following are the Twelve Recommended Guidelines for Dealing with Media/Public Relations Opportunities for use at all levels of the S.L.A.AA. Fellowship:	
	 We try to avoid S.L.A.A. has no opinions Our public relations policy 	

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- 4. Any unilateral action, by any S.L.A.A. member acting on his/her their own, to place S.L.A.A. before the public media, at any level is expressly discouraged.
- 5. Group conscience-based...

How the By-Laws will appear if the change is adopted:

ARTICLE I – Purpose, Section 3 – Twelve Recommended Guidelines, number 4:

The following are the Twelve Recommended Guidelines for Dealing with Media/Public Relations Opportunities for use at all levels of the S.L.A.AA. Fellowship:

- 1. We try to avoid...
- 2. S.L.A.A. has no opinions...
- 3. Our public relations policy...
- 4. Any unilateral action, by any S.L.A.A. member acting on their own, to place S.L.A.A. before the public media, at any level is expressly discouraged.
- 5. Group conscience-based...

Intent:

The Annual Business Meeting (ABM) Conference has been very clear on their decision to move away from any "gender specific" pronouns to "gender neutral" pronouns.

This Motion is to move a part of the Twelve Guidelines to that conscious choice of neutrality.

Requirements if the By-Laws change is adopted:

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23n22/23-09 Continued from previous page	Change the By-Laws. Once the Amended By-Laws are crafted by the CBC, reviewed, and verified for accuracy, the Amended By-Laws will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees to be reviewed and verified for accuracy. Then there will be a nominal amount of time needed by the Technology Director to place the Amended By-Laws on the Fellowship-Wide Services (F.W.S.) website. Finally, the Technology Director will forward these Amended By-Laws to the Executive Director for inclusion in the Board Manual, the Delegate Binder, and any other location where the By-Laws are physically placed.	
23n23/23-10	Item For Discussion: To discuss the importance of sobriety in the writing and editing of conference approved S.L.A.A. literature. The S.L.A.A. conference ought to consider suspending the new publishing or editing of any S.L.A.A. literature until some kind of sobriety requirements have been established for the CLC and contributing writers and editors. Intent: Should sobriety be a requirement for any member who could have a hand in writing or approving official S.L.A.A. literature? Sobriety is a common requirement for many service positions - from the local group up to world service. The board of trustees requires sobriety to serve. Is the writing of conference approved literature a similarly important position?	2023 ARS: The ARS approved this submission 3-0-0.

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23n23/23-10 Continued from previous page	The 5th Tradition message we are tasked with carrying is recovery from sex and love addiction, and that message is best conveyed by fellows who are actively living in sobriety. Obviously, we cannot transmit recovery if we have not recovered ourselves. Right now we are allowing members of S.L.A.A. who may not be sober to write, edit, and approve literature that is being distributed across the fellowship. This IFD asks the Conference whether we want Conference Approved Literature from members who may be struggling with sobriety. Requirements: There is no cost to having this discussion. Only time to discuss the matter at the conference will be required.	
23n24/23-11	Motion: When current inventory is exhausted, revise and publish <i>A State of Grace</i> (<i>ASOG</i>) to correct typos, add an index, and replace the currently published text as described in the attachment to the motion (see attachment). Intent: The intent of this motion is to bring S.L.A.A.'s daily meditation book, <i>ASOG</i> , into alignment with the text that was originally approved by the Conference in 2018. Post Conference-approval edits to <i>ASOG</i> resulted in a document that is significantly different than what was approved by the Conference (see attachment with 331 changed affirmations + 5 other changed passages). The Conference voted in 2021 (affirmed by group conscience) to form a	2023 ARS: The ARS approved this submission 3-0-1.

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joint committee with the CLC and the BPDC to revise the text to align with the original Conference-approved document from 2018. The Joint Committee was formed and the BPDC did attend a few times and was kept apprised. The Joint committee formed the document that is the attachment (Edits to ASOG). The CLC is asking the Conference to approve a *revised ASOG* edition, to be published when current inventory is exhausted, because:

- There are several typos in the published text.
- The end statements (affirmations) as re-written are often disconnected from the main entry for the day.
- The language used to replace the Conference-Approved text is often from the world of therapy rather than S.L.A.A.'s world of spiritual recovery.
- The revision of the end statements for many of the daily entries are vague, often eliminating the specificity in the original Conference-approved text.
- The book needs an index.

As of January 1, 2022, FWS had 6,550 copies of the softcover *A State of Grace* in inventory. Monthly sales have been averaging 100 copies per month. Sales numbers will certainly fluctuate, but it is reasonable to project we will have inventory through late 2027.

Requirements:

When current inventory is exhausted, follow the documented conference-approved literature publication process (Appendix H&I or other) to publish a revision of *A State of Grace* with an index and corrections as indicated in the attachment. This requires re-composing the print ready pages and republishing the digital edition of *A State of Grace* with the same

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23n24/23-11 Continued from previous page	corrections. These expenses compared to paper and press time are minimal. Continued sales of this daily meditation book would offset costs.	
23n25/23-12	 Item For Discussion: This Item seeks Conference discussion on whether the current draft of the 50th Anniversary Basic Text reflects "light editing" of the Basic Text. Following discussion by the Conference in 2021, the Writing Group of the 50th Anniversary of the Basic Text undertook to lightly edit the Basic Text. A light edit would be limited to correcting spelling and grammar and adding additional stories after chapters 1 - 8. Intent: 1. The Submitter (Greater Chicago Milwaukee S.L.A.A. Intergroup) is concerned that the editors make substantive changes to the meaning of chapters 1 - 4 of the Basic Text including the personal story of the Founder and others. 2. The current edits to the Basic Text substantially change the meaning of the Basic Text by sanitizing the voice of the original authors and deny the truth of their personal stories. This sanitization weakens the message of the Basic Text. 3. We have included examples of the editing we find are over broad and are actually editing to change the essence of the Basic Text. Please see the Attachment under separate cover for additional information pertinent to this Item For Discussion. 	2023 ARS: The ARS approved this submission 3-0-1.

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23n25/23-12 Continued from previous page	Requirements: No cost other than the time needed to hold this discussion at the ABM.	
23n26/23-13	Item For Discussion: Create a Conference Technology Committee.	2023 ARS: The ARS approved this submission 3-0-1.
	Intent:	
	This IFD is for the creation of a Conference Technology Committee. The mission of this Committee is to support the Conference Committees, the FWS office, the BOT, and the Fellowship at large as a supplement to the Board Technology Committee (BTC) on technical issues for the betterment of SLAA.	
	Members of the SLAA Fellowship have a vast range of technical skills and knowledge and will be encouraged to bring this wisdom together to provide a source of knowledge, support, opinion, and training in technologies to support the SLAA purpose.	
	Requirements:	
	The Committee will be composed of volunteers from the Fellowship. Costs will be like other Committees.	

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23n27/23-14	By-Laws Motion:	2023 ARS: The ARS approved this
	How the section of the By-Laws to be changed currently reads:	submission 3-0-1.
	ARTICLE VI – Board of Trustees, Section 3 – Duties and Responsibilities:	
	 a. The Board of Trustees shall act as the guardian especially Tradition 10 and Warranty (e) of Concept Twelve regarding public controversy. b. The Board of Trustees shall act as spokesperson for 	
	The new wording, using "strikethrough and underline" format, into the section of the By-Laws proposed to be changed:	
	ARTICLE VI – Board of Trustees, Section 3 – Duties and Responsibilities:	
	 a. The Board of Trustees shall act as the guardian especially Tradition 40 Ten and Warranty (e) of Concept Twelve regarding public controversy. b. The Board of Trustees shall act as spokesperson for c. The Board of Trustees shall respond timely, reasonably, and professionally to all communications. 	
	How the By-Laws will appear if the change is adopted:	
	ARTICLE VI – Board of Trustees, Section 3 – Duties and Responsibilities:	
	 a. The Board of Trustees shall act as the guardian especially Tradition Ten and Warranty (e) of Concept Twelve regarding public controversy. b. The Board of Trustees shall act as spokesperson for 	

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23n27/23-14 Continued from previous page	c. The Board of Trustees shall respond timely, reasonably, and professionally to all communications. Intent: There has been a disconnect between the Conference and the Board of Trustees. Requests have taken a long time to be responded to. The links on the website to contact the BOT have been broken for months and may still be broken. This has been going on since before the Technology Director resigned. This By-Laws change will induce the Board to be communicative to those they directly serve. Requirements: Change the By-Laws. Once the Amended By-Laws are crafted by the CBC, reviewed, and verified for accuracy, the Amended By-Laws will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees to be reviewed and verified for accuracy. Then there will be a		
	nominal amount of time needed by the Technology Director to place the Amended By-Laws on the Fellowship-Wide Services (F.W.S.) website. Finally, the Technology Director will forward these Amended By-Laws to the Executive Director for inclusion in the Board Manual, the Delegate Binder, and any other location where the By-Laws are physically placed.		
23n28/23-15	Motion: All future ABC/Ms are required to include an online virtual option, including delegates' ability to vote, in the form of either a hybrid ABM or, if that cannot be planned and/or afforded by the fellowship, a fully virtual online ABM in its place.	Т	023 ARS: he ARS approved this ubmission 3-0-1.

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Intent:

This motion aims towards full participation of all intergroups at future ABMs by ensuring the option of online digital attendance in order to make the ABM more accessible for worldwide participation from Intergroups around the globe. By including, rather than excluding, we uplift the voices in our fellowship that are otherwise being marginalized and build a healthier group conscience.

The Covid-19 pandemic showed us that an all-virtual ABM is possible. That experience also underlined how prohibitive the costs of travel, hotel stays and catered meals have been for delegates from smaller Intergroups with less funds. With an in-person only ABM, only Intergroups with the economic ability to attend in person are able to vote, while Intergroups with lower funds remain excluded; leaving their voices unheard. In this way, in-person only ABMs limit the power of Intergroups to participate in fellowship wide decisions.

Concept 1 states that the "Ultimate responsibility and authority for S.L.A.A. world services always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship." Yet less than one third of registered Integroups were able to send a delegate to the in-person only 2022 ABM.

Concept 2 states that "The Annual Business Conference, by delegation, is the voice and conscience for our world services and of S.L.A.A. as a whole." We cannot move forward knowingly planning exclusive events that cut off Intergroups from communicating their needs and voting on matters that will affect their meetings.

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23n28/23-15 Continued from previous page	Concept 4 states that, "The 'right of participation' is maintained by allowing members the opportunity to cast one vote up to the level at which they are trusted servants." Use of digital technologies (such as Zoom) will improve the ability of all Intergroups to fully participate and cast their votes. This will greatly improve true knowledge of "Group Conscience" and worldwide participation. The decision to hold an in-person only event for the 2022 and 2023 ABM events was voted on by the BOT alone. This motion allows the fellowship-wide group conscience to be heard on the matter. Requirements: This motion calls for all ABC/Ms next year and after to be planned to be inclusive by offering an online virtual option for delegate participation that must include the ability to vote. This means that all future ABC/Ms will either be Hybrid events (an in person event with virtual online participation) or if a hybrid event cannot be produced, a fully virtual event will be offered to maintain online accessibility. The ability to have a virtual presence at the Conference and its cost must be	
	The ability to have a virtual presence at the Conference and its cost must be considered when selecting locations for future ABC/Ms. The Local Planning Committee, Board Technology Committee, and/or the FWS Office will have to arrange for delegates to attend virtually.	
23n29/23-16	Item For Discussion: The originators seek the conference discusses the implications of: adopting the following statement ("Safety within S.L.A.A. – Maintaining a Spiritual	2023 ARS: The ARS approved this submission 3-0-1.

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Boundary") as a recommendation to support safety in the Fellowship and making it one of the free core documents.

Safety within S.L.A.A. Maintaining a Spiritual Boundary

Twelve Step meetings are generally safe spaces, but it is essential to be aware of potential risks and to take precautions to keep the meetings safe. A person who participates in our Program agrees not to use a Meeting, the Program or Fellowship information to subject another member to unlawful acts, during or between meetings.

National and local laws regarding stalking, harassment, sexual harassment, etcetera, apply at our meetings and in society and take precedence over the Traditions, including Tradition Three. Therefore, a person who uses our meetings or our Program to commit unlawful acts during or between meetings, such as stalking, harassment, sexual harassment, etc. is not welcome to participate in Fellowship meetings. That person is asked for their safety and that of others to find other ways for their recovery.

It is of utmost importance for our common welfare, which according to our Tradition One should come first, that meetings and Program activities are safe places with healthy boundaries where members can experience recovery without risking exposure to unlawful acts.

The requirement not to subject another S.L.A.A. member to unlawful acts - during or between meetings - is a **spiritual boundary**. The ultimate responsibility for respecting this spiritual boundary lies with the member themselves. The boundary comes into effect the moment an unlawful act is committed (for example, an illegal crude sexual text message is sent) even

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before the recipient has read the message, regardless if anyone else finds out. Therefore, a person who commits unlawful acts against another member of S.L.A.A. has the personal responsibility not to attend our meetings.

In the Program, we neither can nor should we do the work of law enforcement or the judiciary. However, we can remind each other of the spiritual boundary: it is not acceptable to attend meetings for a person who is committing unlawful act(s) towards another member. For example, if a person shares about subjecting another member to an unlawful act, the meeting leader (or another stable member) can interrupt the meeting, remind the meeting of the spiritual boundary and ask the person to leave.

A person who has previously committed an unlawful act against one or more other members is welcome to participate in meetings again when such act(s) has ceased by a reasonable margin, with at least six (6) months since the last act – if participation can safely take place without the risk for new unlawful acts or that anyone gets hurt, including all previously impacted members. As a living amends the person is then asked to prioritize the subjected member(s) by finding other meetings so that the subjected member(s) does not lose meetings or program activities. A person who has previously committed an unlawful act toward another member, has a personal responsibility to not again participate in a meeting where there is a risk they could harm or endanger others. We firmly believe that anyone with a true desire to recover, will take this personal responsibility seriously and act accordingly. In the event of a legal process, the person who broke the law is asked to cooperate, to speak the truth and to respect the anonymity of the subjected member and witnesses who come forward.

Intent:

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The Core document intends to care for safety and healthy boundaries in our Program so that no one will be exposed to unlawful acts in connection with meeting attendance or be tempted to use the meetings to act out. For more understanding how this will work, please read the draft of the Core Document and the section "Further Questions" in the Appendix.

2014-2016 the issue of safety was discussed at ABM. A common argument was that Groups and Intergroups should solve safety issues locally. Experience has shown this often does not work. In the middle of an actual case all members are deeply shaken, even members with a long sobriety can lose balance and discernment and go into denial.

Even one single severe case where the subjected member needs to leave, can lead to a deteriorated safety in an entire Intergroup for years, and an increasing number of safety issues, where ever more members get traumatized by unlawful acts. Locally, the absence of international guidelines, is also often used as an argument to not install local guidelines. Locally, in a problematic area there is even the risk that authorities or media see a need to investigate our Program, which will threaten the anonymity of all members seeking recovery.

Reporting to the police does not solve the problem with meeting attendance (unless the lawbreaking member is immediately taken in custody and imprisoned for several years, which will rarely be the case). Experience shows the subjected member is often even more traumatized by having to leave meetings to stay clear of the perpetrator, than the original unlawful acts, even when these have been very severe, as in the case of rape. Experience also shows the predator member does not benefit from, or

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recover in, meetings where they are allowed to act out and harm other members.

All the while the safety issue is passed back and forth between FWS, Intergroups and Groups, unlawful acts keep occurring, harming the safety and recovery of all. We firmly believe we need to wake up and take a stand that our Program shall not be used for committing unlawful acts, but for recovery.

Requirements:

The text will be published in a document format (e.g., PDF) for online access on the F.W.S. website in the Core Documents section. The CTIOC or other committees can translate the document into other languages.

A passage reflecting this core document could be included in the proposed meeting format (see the example below) that is published on the F.W.S. website. The passage could be and freely edited and incorporated into meetings, Groups and Intergroups through the power of Tradition Four.

"This meeting and the Program are for us to recover from sex and love addiction. We respect each other and do not tolerate unlawful acts committed against another member. To protect the safety of our group, we ask that if someone is currently committing an unlawful act against a member of this Program, you leave the meeting and seek help elsewhere until you can safely participate in our Fellowship."