

Conference Committee Corner

Conference Charter Committee (CCC) and Conference Committees Chairs Reports

Conference Charter Committee (CCC)

Since the last report to the **F.W.S. Newsletter** Winter/Dec 2018 there have been three (3) CCC calls (Dec 2nd, Jan 6th and Feb 3rd).

Discussions, actions and reports included:

1. Board Chair Report (Rich K.) - monthly report
2. Executive Director (ED) Report (Pam Martin) – monthly report
3. ARS Report (Phillip W.) – 2019 ABM Agenda with Attachment First Version distributed
4. Conference Committee Chairs – (Rita H. facilitator) met Feb 17th (see Chairs Call report in this newsletter) with four new chairs; next call May 19th.
5. CSM 2019 Revision Work Group (RWG) Report – (Phillip W. facilitator) finished its mandate to update the **Conference Service Manual 2019** and dissolved Jan 14th; posted on website.
6. ABM Minutes Work Group – forms after the ABM 2019 with 3 members: CCC, BOT and ARS Chairs; updated process and timeline approved by BOT Jan 13th
7. ABM 2019 Planning Committee – this is a board committee with two CCC, one CFC, one LPC, ED, webmaster, BOT Chair, and two other BOT members (includes Treasurer) for a total of nine members. Meetings Dec 17th, Jan 21st and Feb 18th. All forms announcing the ABC/M 2019 July 23-26th (Tues-Fri) Sacramento Sheraton Grand Hotel were reviewed/approved for distribution Jan 24th and posted on the website.
8. ABC/M 2019 Scheduling Work Group – meets six to eight weeks before an ABM
9. Mentors ABM 2019 Report – forms four to six weeks before ABM;
10. 12 Concepts discussions continue.
11. Consensus that the Executive Director's (ED) Report to the CCC is the purview of the ED. Any member wanting more information to contact ED directly.
12. New Chairs receive the **CSM 2019** with Appendix D, New Chair Orientation presented at the ABM 2018 and updated Member List, Phone #/Day/Time and a list of Conference Committee contacts for requests from the F.W.S. website.
13. **CCC Manual** and contents discussion continues.

Conference Committees Chairs Report

There are sixteen (16) Conference Committees. Any member of S.L.A.A. may join one or more of these Conference Committees at any time by contacting the Conference Committee or the CCC chair via the F.W.S. website. The Conference Committees are:

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|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Anorexia (CAC) | 12. Public Information (CPIC) – new Chair |
| 2. By-Laws (CBC) – new Chair | 13. Service (CSC) – new Chair |
| 3. Conference Charter (CCC) | 14. Sponsorship (CSPC) |
| 4. Diversity (CDC) | 15. Steps, Traditions, Concepts (CSTCC) |
| 5. Finance (CFC) | 16. Translation/International Outreach |
| 6. Hospital/Institutions (CHIC) - inactive | (CTIOC) – new interim Chair |
| 7. Healthy Relationships (CHRC) | |
| 8. Intergroup Communication (CICC) | |
| 9. Journal (CJC) | |
| 10. Literature (CLC) | |
| 11. Members Retention (CMRC) | |

There was a Chairs Call on Feb 17th with **19** members present and **14** written reports. Highlights of the call included:

- The CDC is considering a presentation at the ABC/M 2019 raising awareness of conscious inclusion vs. unconscious exclusion.
- The CHIC remains inactive but CPIC consensus to merge to be discussed further by new Chair. ED report summarized Office response to inmate mail (63 letters) and costs \$219.22 to CPIC/CHIC budget.
- CJC looking for a new Journal editor and announcement to be in the Spring **F.W.S. Newsletter**. *The Journal* is celebrating 30 years in Sept-Oct 2019.
- CLC approved *The Gift of No Contact* as a Motion; Four Steps and Two Traditions of the 12x12 as an IFD; *The HOW Step and Sponsorship Guide* as an IFD and the *HOW Beginners Guide* as an IFD to the ARS for the 2019 ABM Agenda.
- The CPIC meets quarterly now.
- CSC and CSPC decided not to merge. CSC has a new Chair and the trifold Cartoon Service brochure is under review by the CLC.
- CSPC indicated the phone meeting working group "Focus on Sponsorship" meets weekly and had 30 participants last week – a new high. There were 10 inquiries from the Fellowship.
- CSTCC had a total of nine questions in 2018 and one in January 2019.

In service
Rita H.,
CCC Chair
February 17, 2019

Conference Journal Committee (CJC) Report

The Conference Journal Committee (CJC) announces the upcoming biennial election for editor of *the Journal*, S.L.A.A.'s meeting in print. The editor serves a two-year term. Elections are held by the Conference Journal Committee for the position in odd-numbered years after it has been announced for one month. The current editor of *the Journal* would like to continue for another term. However, applications are being accepted for the unpaid position now from other interested persons.

The editor works closely with the F.W.S. Office to coordinate reproduction and distribution of *the Journal*, as well as budgetary and subscription planning and projections. The editor of *the Journal* is a volunteer member responsible for final production of *the Journal* and has editorial or writing experience. Candidates must have a minimum of one year of continuous S.L.A.A. sobriety. *The Journal* Editor attends the annual S.L.A.A. Annual Business Conference and Meeting and the monthly CJC conference call.

This year's editor election will be held at the April 2019 meeting. All S.L.A.A. members are welcome to attend the CJC conference call. Please contact the CJC at <https://slaafws.org/contact> through Fellowship Wide Services for more information about participating in the monthly call, applying for the editor position, or other issues related to *the Journal*.

In service
Susan G., CJC Chair
Dec. 07, 2018

Conference Steps, Traditions and Concepts Committee (CSTCC): Questions from the Fellowship

Question from the Fellowship (Committee Reference #2018-9):

With respect to Tradition 2, does the group conscience define our "Higher Power" (HP) or do each of us individually define our own "Higher Power"? Reading closely the wording of S.L.A.A.'s Tradition 2 (and especially when contrasted with Alcoholics Anonymous's version), the meaning is either that HP is defined by our group conscience, or HP's Power (whatever that means) is defined by our group conscience. Neither of those messages appeals to me. I thought that it is the will or message of HP that is transmitted to us through our group conscience.

Editor's Note: *The comments below were given by members of the Conference Steps, Traditions and Concepts Committee and do not represent a group conscience of the entire committee. The opinions expressed here are solely that of the person giving them. Take what you like and leave the rest.*

Response #1:

The democratic nature of our Fellowship provides the opportunity for making changes to the Twelve Traditions via the Annual Business Conference/Meeting (ABC/M). The proposal to change part of Tradition 2 could be submitted as an Item For Discussion (IFD) or motion at the ABC/M. I suggest starting as an IFD to open the discussion and see what type of feedback is received. The feedback could then be incorporated into a motion for later submittal at the ABC/M.

From a personal perspective, I do not see an issue with the current wording. While it may be imperfect, that is the limitation of any language. No written word can perfectly express the relationship we have as individuals or as a group with a Higher Power.

Response #2:

I am not having a problem with the wording of either the S.L.A.A. or AA versions. I don't see either one saying that the Group Conscience is *defining* the Higher Power. To me, they both say that our group takes a "conscience" but in doing so is guided by a Higher Power, which comes through us.

I believe that just as individuals trust a Higher Power to inform their lives, so can a Group TRUST that a Higher Power will inform the Group's actions and trust that it will help us make good decisions. Further, I believe that the group is an instrument of the Higher Power, but not THE Higher Power and that those good ideals are EXPRESSED in the Group Conscience, not created or caused by the group.

Note from the CSTCC: *The CSTCC is a group of volunteers, some of whom were ABM delegates, and others who volunteered out of interest. We do not represent a group conscience of S.L.A.A. but are committed to bringing thoughtful discussion and study of 12 Step Fellowship literature and experience to the questions we receive. In our responses, we may reference other non-S.L.A.A. literature, including that of other 12 Step recovery fellowships. We hope that wider discussion within S.L.A.A. evolves our recovery customs and practices to better represent the loving guidance of a Higher Power. We affirm the autonomy of each group and suggest that*

everyone follow their own conscience. No decision of this group or any other is ever forced upon another, even when we believe a practice is clearly in conflict with the Steps, Traditions and Concepts.