

## Conference Committee Report Corner

### Conference Anorexia Committee (CAC)

**Mission Statement:** The S.L.A.A. Conference Anorexia Committee (CAC) carries the message to the S.L.A.A. community that sexual, social, and emotional anorexia can be an inherent part of sex and love addiction and encourages integrating this idea into all areas of the Fellowship and its literature.

**Chair:** Austin H., Austin, TX

**Vice Chair:** Kelly C., Houston, TX

**BOT Liaison:** Rick S., PA

**Active members:** Doug P. (OH), Ava H. (NY), Jim B. (CA), Andrew B. (CA), Lloyd F. (NY), Suanne E. (CA), Giita H. (MI), Sandy B. (TX), Phil B. (MA), Arrow (NY)

#### Highlights:

**Workbook - *Anorexia 8 & 9: Working the Program and Not the Problem*** will be submitted as a motion for the 2022 ABM. Project Manager: Kelly C. (TX)

**Workbook - *Anorexia 10-11-12: Working the Program and Not the Problem*** will be submitted as an IFD for the 2022 ABM. Project Manager: Kelly C. (TX)

**Anorexia Pamphlet Revisions** have been forwarded to the CLC for review and consideration to be submitted as 2022 IFD. Project Manager: Jim B. (CA)

**Revisions to Welcome Pamphlet** Submitted proposed changes for anorexia-related terms in the Welcome Pamphlet to CLC for consideration for 2022 IFD.

**Anorexia Stories for Basic Text** Continuing to accept stories for consideration to include in an update to the S.L.A.A. Basic Text. Send stories of anorexia recovery to [anorexiastoriesslaa@gmail.com](mailto:anorexiastoriesslaa@gmail.com).

#### CAC Meeting Info:

- 4th Sunday of the month. 11:00 AM-PDT, 12:00-MDT, 1:00 PM-CDT, 2:00 PM-EDT, 8:00 PM-CEST
- Zoom meeting ID 831 8461 6506. Password: 308457

### Conference Literature Committee (CLC)

#### Mission Statement:

The Conference Literature Committee (CLC) creates quality literature in support of S.L.A.A. recovery; guides the planning, writing, and editing of literature from writers, writing groups or service bodies within S.L.A.A.; and approves draft literature prior to submission for full Conference approval.

**Active Members:** Susan G., Lee W., Ray H., Susan G., Mark M., Kelly C., Sam, Dave G., Gill, Fabiana, Jeff, Stephen S., Suanne, Sarah B., Anthony C., Troy, Vivian D., Timothy P., Ari, David B., Anthony, Phoenix, Peggy

**Volunteer Positions:**

Facilitator/Chair: Susan G., New Chair  
Vice Chair: Ray H., New Vice Chair  
BOT Liaison: Jay G.

Minutes Recorder:  
Spiritual Reminder: All  
Timekeeper:

The CLC has had an exciting year with many working groups which have produced quality literature. Several of them were on the ABM Agenda for discussion this year, and may become Motions for approval at next year's ABM. We are still waiting on the ABM minutes in order to make these motions. What follows is:

**CLC Active Projects Spreadsheet:**

**<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1rNjJ9PNSIk6feES1t9mSkv0sL6LWMjEcz7DARTSuveA/edit?usp=sharing>**

Draft literature discussed at the ABM Conference received many favorable and constructive comments. These were recorded as well as captured by a note taker as well. Minutes of the ABM (discussions and outcome of the motions) will likely be available soon.

It has been wonderful to work with the various conference service committees, like the Anorexia Committee, the Conference Steps and Traditions Committee, the Journal, the Service Committee, the HOW folks in the UK, The Basic Text 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee and many others, who are working tirelessly to get quality literature to you. If you are interested in being a part of this exciting work, please contact us on our Committee Corner, at the bottom of the F.W.S. home page: [slaafws.org](http://slaafws.org) (where all the Committees are listed, near the bottom of the page) look for more info there.

\*Of note: the 50th Anniversary Edition of the Basic Text is looking for stories. Please see the flyer on the CLC committee page, and submit your story here as well: <https://slaafws.org/committee/clc/> - Please be sure to sign the disclaimer, along with your story (should be available on Committee corner and elsewhere soon). Thank you for your service to the CLC!

Lee W. continues to serve on the LCEP (Literature Creation Editing and Publishing) Workgroup, along with Jeff C. They are hammering out a new draft process for how literature is created and Published along with the Board of Trustees Publishing and Distribution Committee (BDPC).

Our one-and-a-half hour meetings are held on the **4th Saturday** of the month at 11:00 a.m. central, eleven months out of the year.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6518051209?pwd=ek1pbVR4QmdUdXJUYkcrVmhSV2pTZz09>

Meeting ID: 651 805 1209

Passcode: 047887

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,6518051209#,,,,\*047887# US (San Jose)

+13462487799,,6518051209#,,,,\*047887# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 651 805 1209

Passcode: 047887

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kzKPqADhp>

See you there and thank you for your service!

Susan G.  
CLC Chair

### **Conference Service Committee (CSC)**

#### **Mission Statement:**

The Conference Service Committee is responsible for educating and increasing members' commitment to service.

#### **Meeting Info:**

Monthly, second Friday, one hour Zoom meeting, 773 8128 2473, passcode: 197612  
4:00 PM Eastern, 3:00 PM Central, 2:00 PM Mountain, 1:00 PM Pacific

#### **Members:**

**Chair:** Cate B., **Vice Chair:** Avi S., **BOT Liaison:** Jay G., **Regular Attenders:** John D. (TX), Mira A. (UK), Celia G. (AUS), Non-Attendees Leading Projects: Ari F (NJ), David W (MA)

#### **Established/Active Projects:**

**Super Service Brochure:** Led by Ari F. Updates have been made in response to feedback gathered from 2021 ABM IFD 21o08/19-05

#### **Committee Info ("Conference Committees; What they do and when they meet!"):**

Led by Ari F. Updates have been made to ensure accuracy in light of Conference Committee changes following ABM.

**Sponsor Suggestions for Sponsee Service:** Led by Cate B. Seeks to collect and curate helpful suggestions from sponsor to sponsee for ways to be of service. Initial draft being developed.

**Creative Service Media:** Led by Mira L. Seeks to produce visual/multimedia content to

educate and inspire service. Twelve works targeted; two works actively in draft.

**S.L.A.A. Service Resource (Glide app):** Led by Avi S. Seeks to produce a prototype mobile/web app for providing information about service. Glide (glideapps.com) has been tentatively selected as the platform for creating the app. Initial exploration and development has commenced.

**Sticking to Service: How to adhere to service goals in the face of opposition:** Led by John D.

Seeks to produce written content for describing common challenges faced in being of service and solutions for maintaining a commitment to be of service in light of challenges that arise. Concept has been discussed and background information for content has been collected.

**Committee Meeting Consolidated Schedule (Google Calendar):** Led by David W. Seeks to produce a consolidated schedule of all recurring, regular Conference Committee meetings. Google Calendar has been tentatively selected as the platform for this consolidated schedule. Updated content from "Conference Committees; What they do and when they meet!" has been provided to inform schedule content.

**CSC Discord (initial, internal-only initiative):** Led by Avi S. Seeks to provide an alternate, more highly interactive, responsive and robust platform for communication amongst CSC members. Invitation-only Discord server set up; CSC members have joined & used it.

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

*The CSTCC welcomes Questions from the Fellowship concerning the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts. Our responses are individual, and neither binding nor authoritative. We do not speak for the whole of S.L.A.A.*

#### Question from the Fellowship (Committee Reference #2021-3):

Does the committee have any guidance on a local intergroup listing a meeting that is a S.L.A.A./AA combo meeting? Would adding these meeting groups to our local meeting list be in any way a violation of our steps, traditions and concepts?

#### Response #1:

I wonder whether the fact that this is a cross-program meeting means that this meeting group is not fully in alignment with S.L.A.A. Tradition Three, especially with regard to its oft forgotten clause, "...provided that as a group they have no other affiliation".

Ultimately, the decision to list or not list a meeting group at the Intergroup level is a matter for the Intergroup to decide in group conscience. Alignment with the Twelve Traditions could certainly be used as a guiding factor in that decision -- regardless of whether there's more emphasis placed on alignment with Tradition Five (carrying the

message) or alignment with that latter portion of Tradition Three. When it comes to cross-program groups, these two Traditions can seem to be at odds.

As a means of avoiding the cross-program issue, a meeting group I'm involved with chose to clearly position itself as an S.L.A.A. group, but also be clear that we focus on a specific set of early life experiences that we believe contribute to our troubles with love and sexuality. Although there happens to be a separate Twelve Step fellowship that helps its members recover from such early life experiences, the group does not affiliate itself with that other fellowship. Many of the group's individual members identify as members of both S.L.A.A. and the other fellowship, but members of the group do not need to be members of the other fellowship, as certain kinds of illegal activities common to some sex and love addicts are an explicit disqualifier for membership in that other fellowship. So, if my group were to affiliate itself with the other fellowship as well as S.L.A.A. we would thereby be excluding some sex and love addicts from membership in the group. From my perspective, exclusions that arise as a result of an individual's failure to qualify for membership in all Twelve Step fellowships with which a cross-program group affiliates, would be an indicator that the group is not operating in alignment with the Third Tradition of S.L.A.A.

If the meeting group seeking a place on your intergroup's meeting list intends to exclude sex and love addicts who do not meet the requirement for AA membership, that lack of alignment with Tradition Three might be enough of a reason for your intergroup to decide to decline the request. Each group is fully autonomous and does not need membership within an intergroup in order to exist.

#### Response #2:

While each group is autonomous, that autonomy does not extend to matters affecting other S.L.A.A. Groups or S.L.A.A. as a whole (Tradition Four). With the transition to online meetings accessible by every sex and love addict in the world, every Group now has the ability to affect other Groups and S.L.A.A. as a whole in the way it chooses to carry the message (Tradition Five).

As per Tradition Four, it is a matter for each Intergroup whether to accept any new Group. I can share from my own experience that it is more productive to gently work with new Groups (and their members) to help them align with S.L.A.A.'s Steps, Traditions and Concepts.

Should this meeting be listed as a S.L.A.A. Group? That is a decision for the Intergroup to assess on the facts. Matters I suggest to consider in reaching an *informed* Group Conscience are:

1. Does the Group use sufficient S.L.A.A. literature to be properly characterized as a S.L.A.A. Group despite using *some* outside (AA) literature?
2. Does the Group read out the Conference approved Notice advising that they are using non-Conference Approved Literature (Concepts One and Two)? So, attendees are aware they are not using S.L.A.A. materials and can ask why.

3. Is the Group really a blend of two fellowships? If so, this new "hybrid fellowship" is an outside affiliation disintitling it to be a S.L.A.A. Meeting (Tradition Three). This is for the singularity of the S.L.A.A. Message in the interests of the fellowship as a whole (Tradition Four).
4. Does the Group endorse AA literature as being superior to equivalent S.L.A.A. literature? This affects S.L.A.A. as a whole contrary to Tradition Four and endorses an outside enterprise (AA) contrary to Tradition Six.

Response #3:

An S.L.A.A. meeting is an S.L.A.A. meeting if they say they are. And thus, should be listed by their Intergroup on the local meeting list. Deciding to list or not list a meeting is an act of government, not an act of service. Decisions such as this should be avoided. Let's not take ourselves too seriously. If a meeting asks to be listed, it should be listed.

Listing an S.L.A.A. meeting is consistent with the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts. Of course, someone will point out that a combo meeting is contrary to the guidance of Tradition Three: "provided that as a group they have no other affiliation."

A couple of thoughts:

1. The Intergroup does not govern. How can they then judge and exclude?
  2. If the meeting is truly operating contrary to the Traditions, the meeting will fail naturally. The Intergroup should not govern, but certainly can comment.
  3. The meeting in question is clearly a Twelve Step meeting and not affiliated with a religious or political organization. What are we afraid of?
  4. When the Traditions were first written there was only one Twelve Step fellowship. The intent of the Traditions was to avoid religious, political, or economic controversy. The intent was not to segregate those with different diseases. I suspect those of us who believe in the Twelve Steps as a framework for living can learn from each other no matter the nature of our disease or its outward symptoms.
- The guidance in Tradition Three needs to be understood in historical terms. It does not prohibit a meeting from determining how to conduct itself; it does not prevent a meeting from managing its affairs autonomously.

Response #4:

Tradition Five provides guidance for this situation. An S.L.A.A. group should have one primary purpose, to carry its' message to the sex and love addict who still suffers. By having a combination meeting with another program / addiction, the primary purpose could become confused. That, in turn, may limit the recovery of the members of that meeting.

However, Tradition Four states that each group is autonomous, unless it affects other groups or the fellowship as a whole. It seems unlikely that a combination meeting would affect any other groups or the program as a whole. So, the intergroup has the right to make the decision they believe is best.

I also have some experience with something very similar. I was a regular member of a combination AA / Alanon meeting for many years, and it was an important part of my recovery. The local intergroups of both programs would not list it on their websites or meeting schedules due to the conflict with Tradition Five. The meeting did very well (until the pandemic) and drew in new members by word of mouth. So, listing a meeting on an Intergroup website is not absolutely necessary for it to survive.

Response #5:

I do not believe that a double winner S.L.A.A./AA meeting could violate Tradition Four (matters affecting S.L.A.A. as a whole). I also believe that Tradition Three is applicable (only requirement is a desire to stop living out a pattern of sex and love addiction - provided they that as a group they have no other affiliation). It is impossible for S.L.A.A. to not have an affiliation to AA. It's mentioned in our preamble, for starters. The solution, which is the Twelve Steps, as they are stated are exactly the same in S.L.A.A. as in AA, except before the dash, and the last portion of Step Twelve. Step One, the primary area of difference is a statement of the problem up to the dash. The rest is the solution, which is why the wording is virtually unchanged.

Tradition Five is the strongest area of support for sharing this S.L.A.A./AA meeting. If the meeting is carrying the message to the sex and love addict who still suffers it deserves to be listed. There are plenty of meetings, that while open to all, they have a focus. This meeting is no different. We cannot presume that someone would regularly attend this meeting if they only carried the alcohol symptom. Nor is it anyone's business provided the meeting has been declared an open meeting by group conscious.

Response #6:

I would think that double winners meetings are members from both programs; therefore, I don't see violation of traditions. Moreover, we adopted traditions from AA anyway.

I found double winner meetings in more than one program that I am in are enriching each other. After all, Tradition Three states, "The only desire for membership is to stop living out a pattern of sex and love addiction. Any two or more persons gathered together for mutual aid in recovering from sex and love addiction may call themselves an S.L.A.A. group provided that as a group, they have no other affiliation".

And Tradition Four states, "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or S.L.A.A. as a whole".

Traditions are designed to apply in real life, I believe, and recovering S.L.A.A. members, who have AA as a part of their story have the right to carry the message to sex and love addicts, who are in AA as well, according to Tradition Five.

Response #7:

In one sense I think all addictions cause the same neuro-chemical (dopamine) response in the brain, so a double winner meeting makes sense. It is just our drug of choice that differs.

Tradition Four - Each meeting is autonomous so the meeting itself is free to make its own mistakes.

For Tradition Five It was unclear to me if this was a meeting of Sex & Love Addicts who are also Alcoholics or a meeting of people who are either Alcoholics, Sex and Love Addicts or both.

If it is for Sex & Love Addicts who are also Alcoholics, then I would say it is okay to list it as a S.L.A.A. meeting.

If the intergroup has a list of non-S.L.A.A. meetings and it is for S.L.A.A. and/or AA they could list it there or decline to list the meeting.