

Conference Committee Corner

Conference Diversity Committee

CDC meetings are held for 1 hour on Zoom the first Saturday of the month at:
9am PST, 10am MST, 11am CT, 12pm EST, 5pm GMT

CDC Mission Statement:

The Conference Diversity Committee (CDC) is a group of ABC/M delegates and individual members of Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous interested in the following goals:

- Representing and honoring the considerable diversity of patterns and forms of sex and love addiction inside and outside S.L.A.A.
- Honoring and helping diverse groups within S.L.A.A. get their recovery needs met in the Fellowship.
- Supporting groups in creating formats to carry the S.L.A.A. message to other sex and love addicts.
- Carrying the S.L.A.A. message to broader groups of people around the world.

Current Projects:

The Conference Diversity Committee has been working diligently on addressing diversity within the fellowship in a number of ways:

- Revitalizing a workshop on diversity and conscious inclusion practices for all S.L.A.A. fellows to attend. Materials such as The Twelve Traditions of S.L.A.A. are incorporated to expand and involve conscious inclusion throughout the wider fellowship.
- Reviewing and advocating for diversity and inclusion measures within the Fellowship Wide Services (FWS) Annual Business Conference/Meeting
- Developing a resource for meetings to reference venue and literature considerations regarding diversity, accessibility, and inclusion needs
- Maintaining a resource of meetings with automated live captioning and transcription available
- Supporting the creation and maintenance of diverse meeting options by holding a catalogue of example meeting formats. Meeting formats include LGBTQ+, Women's/Men's Only, Anorexia focus, BIPOC, and Bilingual meetings.
- Developing, reviewing, and maintaining a diversity statement for adoption by F.W.S. and its dissemination throughout our fellowship.

Conference Finance Committee

Dear Fellowship Member,

Welcome to the Conference Finance Committee's (CFC's) letter to the Fellowship-Wide Services Newsletter!

This message is meant to share with each member of the Fellowship of Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous the activities of the Finance Committee this year. It is an honor to do

service for the Fellowship. Thank you for giving us a chance to “Give back!”

The CFC’s Mission Statement is:

The Conference Finance Committee is responsible for the allocation of funds to the various Conference committees based on their requests and the available funds provided by the BOT/F.W.S. Works with the BOT/F.W.S. to help increase financial support from the individual groups, Intergroups, and other sources that are available to The Augustine Fellowship within the guidelines of the Twelve Traditions of S.L.A.A.

The CFC meets on the 3rd Sunday of the month for an hour at 7:30pm ET via Zoom.

Recent Activities:

1. Prepared the Conference Committee Budget for 2022 for approval
2. Managed all Committee applications for reimbursement within budget
3. Updated the Reimbursement Request Form for inclusion in the CSM
4. Revised the CFC Manual for the Committee including all reporting templates
5. Assumed managing the Conference Committee’s shared Zoom Account from the CICC
6. Draft CFC Fundraising Suggestions (CFS) to help Intergroups fundraise
7. Circulated the final Group Treasurer’s Reporting (GTR) tool to assist Group Treasurers
8. Working on “*The 7th Tradition: Where Money and Spirituality Meet*” Pamphlet.

The CFC is always looking for members interested in being of service on this Committee. “Giving back what has so freely been given to us” has helped to keep our recovery from sex and love addiction growing, vital, and humble. Please reach out to the Committee using the link below or go to the F.W.S. website and click the Contact Page for the Conference Finance Committee.

In Service,
Celia G – CFC Chair

Finance Committee Link: slaafws.org/committee/CFC/

Conference Steps, Traditions, and Concepts Committee **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 #2023-1):

Given that our traditions include protecting our anonymity, where does the legal responsibility lie if we as an online SLAA group encourage a meeting attendee to turn on their camera and then their photo gets stolen through a screenshot for a nefarious purpose?

Response #1:

This Committee does not provide legal advice to members who have experienced violations of their privacy, but we can share a few observations.

Members photographed without consent attending any SLAA meeting may have the right to bring action against the Photographer(s) and publishers. For example: a celebrity "super-model" photographed leaving a 12 Step meeting (not SLAA) sued successfully for damages for violation of privacy.

Each Group is autonomous to elect whether it wishes to have cameras on, cameras off or a combination of both (Tradition 4). There are arguments both for and against, remembering we are not anonymous to one another.

We take responsibility for our own anonymity by not disclosing our full names or using a pseudonym.

Many members prefer cameras on to check that the meeting has not been joined by, for example, minor(s), "bombers" or anybody who for any reason makes them feel unsafe. In the same way they could scan the room and walk out of an in-person meeting if they feel unsafe.

If a Meeting requires all cameras on (at least for part), and a member has any reason to believe they may be photographed without consent, they can choose a different kind of meeting.

A public figure or member with any other reason to fear being photographed at a meeting (such as child custody dispute) can attend a phone meeting instead, of which there are many offered by SLAA (see the Phone Meeting Finder at slaafws.org). However, they could still be recorded and identified with voice recognition software.

SLAA also offers "real time" Meetings 24/7 through SLAA Online (using IRC) and SLAAvirtual (using WhatsApp) for members who prefer not to share their face or voice.

Whether a member is surreptitiously photographed/recorded at an in-person meeting or an online meeting, it is highly unlikely the SLAA Group or any other SLAA Service Body has any liability.

Attending a SLAA Meeting is a "voluntary assumption of risk" by individuals and only those individuals are aware of the reasons they might be recorded without consent. SLAA offers many options beside in-person and camera on meetings for members who need to conceal their face and/or voice *as well* as their name.

Response #2:

There is nothing in the Twelve Traditions or Twelve Concepts that provides legal guidance for individual safety situations. S.L.A.A. has a document titled "Anonymity, the Law, and S.L.A.A." that is available on the FWS website. While it does not directly address this situation, there is helpful information in it on the relationship between the law and the fellowship. Alcoholics Anonymous also has a "Safety Card for A.A. Groups"

available. While the Card also does not directly address this situation, the following section from it may provide helpful input:

"...we ask that group members and others refrain from any behavior that might compromise another person's safety. Also, please take the precautions you feel are necessary to ensure your own personal safety, for example, walking to your car in a group after a meeting. If a situation should arise where someone feels their safety is in jeopardy, or the situation breaches the law, the individuals involved should take appropriate action."

The Safety Card could be read at each meeting as a reminder to group members.

A member who disagrees with the meeting decision, or who feels uncomfortable complying with the protocol, has the right to seek out another meeting that is more in keeping with their beliefs or safety needs. If a member feels that a violation of the law by another member of the meeting has occurred, they are also within their legal rights to take appropriate action.

Lastly, Tradition Four states that each group is autonomous (unless it affects other groups or the fellowship as a whole). Asking a meeting attendee to keep a camera on is unlikely to affect other groups or the fellowship, so it would seem to be in keeping with Tradition Four. So, there is nothing in the group decision that appears to be in conflict with the Traditions.

Response #3:

Our Steps, Traditions, and Concepts are suggestions, not rules, or laws.

Tradition Two says there is but one ultimate authority, a loving God as this power may be expressed through our group conscience. That means there is no legal authority that governs S.L.A.A. Tradition Four says every group is autonomous, which means the group may decide whether they want to encourage or require members to keep their cameras on. Tradition Ten says we have no opinions on outside issues so that we may never be drawn into public controversies, such as a legal case. Step Eleven says we are to protect anonymity at the level of press, radio, tv, film, and other public media. It does not say we need to maintain anonymity from each other. Also, throughout the Covid pandemic, when virtual meetings were at their highest attendance, there were characters using Zoom meetings to expose themselves to groups or act out on camera, which we referred to as "zoom bombing". Many meetings adopted a script that either suggested or required members to turn their cameras on to protect the safety of the group from Zoom bombers. I would also suggest that anorexic behavior in the context of S.L.A.A. might include the fear of being seen or known, even among our fellows. Fear of turning on a camera could be considered an anorexic characteristic. Just something to consider.

Response #4:

The CSTCC discusses interpretation of the Steps, Traditions and Concepts of S. L. A. A. and is not qualified to address the legal responsibilities of a stolen screenshot. The legal

responsibility may also differ depending on the state it occurred in and if the person taking the screen shot was in the same or different states.

That said, even in person meetings could be compromised, someone could attend an in-person meeting and secretly record someone for nefarious purposes. A private investigator looking for dirt in a divorce, someone from a celebrity magazine looking for gossip....

I don't know how the tradition of protecting anonymity will protect members for people who will do things for nefarious purposes.

The other part the question that wasn't asked is whether meetings can/should encourage (or even require) attendees to turn on their cameras.

Tradition Four applies "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or SLAA as a whole." I don't believe a meeting encouraging/requiring cameras to be on affects SLAA as a whole, so a meeting is free to ask that cameras be turned on.

I believe that as much as possible meetings should encourage cameras, I think it helps us to connect when we see the other members faces when they share.

I also think that there are times it is a bad idea for cameras to be on all the time. I turn my camera off when I am eating, and sometimes people are in meetings when they are in a place that might be triggering to others. I don't think a meeting should require camera's on at all times.

Also, Tradition Five "Each group has but one primary purpose — to carry its message to the sex and love addict who still suffers." Think back to your first meeting – I was timid going in afraid of the meeting, while it was in-person I was ready to bolt at any minute. If I was on a zoom and someone demanded I turn on my camera I might have exited the meeting instead. We need to be welcoming so that we serve our primary purpose to help the addict still suffering.