

Spotlight on Board of Trustees Members

Part 1 of 2

This issue and the next issue we will be spotlighting
the members of the Board of Trustees

Chris D., San Diego, CA, USA

Hello Friends!

I'm Chris, a grateful recovering sex and relationship addict. I got Twelve-Stepped into this Fellowship in June 1991. I knew I wasn't going to stay sober and that my life was over but withdrawal ended that December and life has been so much better since then. Not perfect, but you all show me what to do when I'm having a difficult time with myself or my relationships, so thank you! I am semi-retired and live with my husband in San Diego, CA.

I started a three-year period on the Board of Trustees on August 4, 2023. I'm honored to be serving again. This is the start of my ninth year on the BOT since 2004. But it's been about a decade since I was last on the BOT so I have a lot to learn. In addition to serving on the BOT in the past and all that entails, my service experience includes serving as the delegate for San Diego for four years, membership on the Conference Journal Committee and a proofreader of the Journal, membership on the CLC subcommittee lightly revising the Basic Text to celebrate our Fellowship's 50th anniversary, coordinator of the Board Alumni Trustees recovery meeting, and I leave a monthly message on the Inspiration Line.

I'm the new chair of the Board Programs and Membership Committee which, in part, maintains the F.W.S. Newsletter. Our first task has been the preparation of this edition. My hope is that you find it interesting reading.

Hernan V., San Francisco CA/Baltimore MD, USA

Hi All, Hola a todos,

I hope you are well. I'm Hernan V., Sex and Love Addict, originally from Lima, Peru, a resident for many years in the San Francisco Bay Area, most recent year mostly in the East Coast due to work. I've been fortunate to be a member of the SLAA fellowship for over 8 years. Because of my line of work, I travel a lot and I've been glad to participate of fellowship activities with the SLAA communities in California, New York, and because of my native Spanish language, I've interacted online with the fellowship in Argentina, and I started an online SLAA group in Spanish that reached fellows in Mexico and Colombia, as well as several Latinx members in the US.

I was elected as BOT member at the ABM conference of 2020-21, thanks to a platform based on diversity, inclusion and transparency. The first two years were mostly invested in learning the complexities and the ways and means of the organization we

serve, and working to continue taking the projects, initiatives and focus of the organization in a direction that serves the needs of our Fellowship in a more dramatically challenging world. As any good, noble and worthy undertaking, the path to sustainable progress is not easy, but with the effort, intelligence and heart of everyone I've had the honor and fortune to cooperate with and serve while in the BOT of SLAA FWS, I am confident Higher Power expressed through group conscience will take us there. I'm starting the third and last year of my current term. This is my first time as a member of the BOT. I've been, however, for several years, a servant in the fellowship, as Treasurer and Chair of an Intergroup, as member of the Conference Diversity Committee, and a volunteer in different capacities. Currently I'm the new Treasurer of the FWS Augustine Fellowship for the period 2023-24.

I'm grateful and thankful for the opportunities to be of service, and for Higher Power restoring my full capacity to love myself, the power of the Universe and others, and I want the same to happen to the people that still suffer around the world, especially for the ones in disadvantaged and undeserved regions of the Earth.

Honored to serve, and grateful for everyone,

Hernan V.
San Francisco/Baltimore

Jack F., Darwin, NT, AUS

It's been over a few weeks now since the 2023 ABM and I'm missing the connections of all who attended - I have made some lifelong friends. This fellowship is near & dear to me & the only addiction I have ever suffered. A humbled sex addict in recovery since 2nd January 2016 (sobriety date) and developing and sustaining happy healthy relationships every day, has led me to my second ABM in service of the Australian Intergroup.

When I am not in service, I'm the father of a dog named Sargent & we do everything together, much to my partner's dismay. I'm an avid line dancer and I quite frequently get down to the bowling alley to get some games in! I will be your new liaison for Happy Healthy Relationships + Conference Service Committee + Conference Finance Committee. The HHR & CSC committees have some awesome fresh blood on them & look forward to seeing where the HP takes them this year! The Board 7th Tradition Committee has been tasked by the BOT to develop the Designated Giving Policy and draft plans for increasing self-support within the Fellowship of S.L.A.A. It aims to be up & running shortly with so much energy already being made with fabulous ideas to raise much needed capital.

I would like to thank all those that approached little old me at the ABM to stand up, be represented and be heard. I will advocate for all & be your counted voice.

I want you to look back in 3 years' time & still be proud to have voted for me in & that is

something dear friends - I will strive for every day.

Until we meet again.

Rick B., FL, USA

Hello Recovery-family!

My name is Rick B., I am a recovering sex, love, and fantasy addict. I crawled into the rooms of Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous in December of 2008, and I qualify to serve on the Board of Trustees.

In my Intergroup, there is a saying: "I came into recovery looking for the expressway, and I found the Service Road." This points to the slogan: "Service keeps me sober" that is often used in my meetings. I had a chance to volunteer for a day at the 2009 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) when it was hosted by the Tampa Bay Intergroup. This brought me into contact with members who were willing to be of service and give back.

I've participated in Group-level service in many capacities: Greeter, Welcome Team member, Literature person, Chair/Facilitator, Treasurer, and Intergroup Representative. At the Intergroup-level I have been the Treasurer, acting Secretary, Vice-chair, Chair, and ABM Delegate. At the Conference-level I have been a member, Vice-chair, and Chair of a Conference Committee. At the Board Committee-level I have been a non-BOT member of a Board Committee and its record keeper.

I have had the opportunity to be appointed to the Board of Trustees, been Confirmed to that role by the ABM Conference, and elected to the BOT as well. My most recent election took place at the Annual Business Meeting last year for a 2022-2025 term, as each year there are three openings on the BOT for 3-year terms.

Last Conference-year, I was a member of the Board Outreach Committee (BOC), the Board 7th Tradition Committee (B7TC), the Board Development Committee (BDC), and the Board Publication and Distribution Committee (BPDC) for the last part of the 2023 Conference-year.

As of the 2023 ABM, I have been elected to the chair of the BPDC. I am also a member of the 7th Tradition Committee and the Development Committee. The Board of Trustees chose to elect me to the role of Secretary of the Corporation for which I am grateful and looking for ways to make Board service easier for all the Trustees.

I am thankful for a chance to give back what I have so freely received from the Program. It is an honor to be here and to support this Fellowship that not only saved my life but gave me a life worth living!

In Service,
Rick B. (FL)

SuzAnne D., Texas, USA

Hello,

I have been asked to introduce myself so here goes! I first became aware of S.L.A.A. in 2008 and spent the first four years "auditing" the program until on the heels of a breakup with a fiancé I finally surrendered and got a sponsor. That was 2012. Now it is 2023 and I can't believe I have a new wonderful life where I no longer shy away from responsibility. I spent time on Conference Committees from 2014-2016. I served on the Agenda Review Subcommittee in 2020-2021. My program friend knew I remain willing to serve when called upon when he nominated me for serving on the Board of Trustees at the 2021 ABC/M. My first year on the Board I chaired the BPDC/LCEP committee and sub-committee. I also was Liaison to the CPIC. Last year I took on the role of Board of Trustees Chairperson and chaired the Board Development Committee, while also being Liaison to the Conference Charter Committee, and Chairs Committee. I am hopeful that this year will be a productive year for the Board and I am honored to serve the fellowship. This service helps keep me tethered to my sobriety and for that, I am ever grateful.