

Update on the 50th-Anniversary Edition of the S.L.A.A. Basic Text

Work continues on the 50th-Anniversary, second edition of the S.L.A.A. Basic Text. To refresh your memory or if you aren't familiar with the project, here is a [timeline of our work to date](#).

Our goal is to create a second edition of the Basic Text. It will be issued initially as a 50th-Anniversary Edition for SLAA's 50th anniversary in 2026. In addition to revisions to the body of the text, the book will include a new foreword, an introduction to the first three chapters – to give context to the stories of the founder and his spouse – and introductions to each personal story, including content warnings where needed.

To date, the first eight chapters have been released and were discussed at the 2023 ABM. Some folks are delighted with the work; some are not. These seem to fall into one of three categories:

1) **Some are disappointed that we haven't gone far enough.**

To determine how and what to edit, we had two IFDs at the 2021 ABM. We learned that the Conference did not want a fully updated and revised book. Rather, it wanted slight revisions to the text and new stories to demonstrate both long-term sobriety and aspects of the addiction that have emerged over the years.

2) **Some are surprised to find that there are some changes that go beyond grammar or punctuation.**

In 2021, the scope of the editing that was agreed upon was defined as “misspelling, grammar, punctuation, and typos (which could include spacing and alignment) as well as edits to remove triggering, suggestive, and exclusive language, and, in some cases, to provide clarifying descriptions.”

Discussion of the word “triggering” at the ABM refined our working definition of “triggering” to be: reducing racist, sexist, misogynistic, and graphic language.

3) **Some question whether personal stories should be edited at all.**

The original authors, including the founder and spouse, assigned all rights to FWS and their writings were edited at that time. The 50BTS Style subcommittee judiciously applied the editing criteria to the stories, seeking always to keep the author's intention and voice.

The Style subcommittee will be reviewing and applying feedback from the 2023 ABM as well as any that continues to come in. We hope to send out a new draft version of the entire book by December and distribute it far and wide. If you are interested in participating in the feedback process, please send a request to tmwg50bts@gmail.com.

As our former BOT chair, Seth S., stated at the 2022 ABM, “this is a thankless but necessary task.” We cannot please everyone. Our hope is that “this book carrie[s] [our] message of hope and recovery truthfully enough to be the basic text of Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, capable of helping those still suffering from this illness,” that is stronger, more inclusive, and addresses the concerns heard repeatedly in and out of the Conference over the decades.

For information about the Personal Stories, see the article that follows.

Update on the Personal Stories Section of the Basic Text

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Original stories: All of the original stories have been judiciously edited according to the criteria discussed in 2021 at the ABM, seeking always to keep the author's intention and voice.

New stories: The CLC received 50 stories. All were anonymized, then sent to the Stories subcommittee to be read and evaluated. Of those 50, 13 were chosen for further consideration and have been edited by the Style subcommittee. Those stories are about to be returned to their authors for approval of the edits. Once returned, all of the edited old and new stories will be rated and a group of stories will be chosen for inclusion in the second edition.

Tell Your Story! The Stories subcommittee continues to look for more new stories, particularly about recovery from anorexia, fantasy, and technology. **The deadline for submission has been extended indefinitely** until we find the right stories to illustrate contemporary recovery issues. Here are some helpful links.

- Write your story! [50BTS Stories Flier \(text only\)](#)
- [New Stories Flier to Post or Photocopy](#) (*deadline has been extended indefinitely*)
- [Writing Your S.L.A.A. Story with Audio](#) - Slideshow