

F.W.S. Newsletter

December 2023

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Welcome to the December 2023 Issue of the F.W.S. Newsletter

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What's Inside Editor's Note Executive Director's Report Board of Trustees Chair's Message Letter from Board of Trustees	92 02 02 02 03				
Board Committee Reports • Board Development Committee (BDC)	05				
 Board Development Committee (BDC) Board Programs and Membership Committee and ABM Planning Committee (BPMC) Board Publishing and Distribution Committee (BPDC) 					
Spotlight on Board of Trustees Members	09				
Conference Committee Report Corner					
Conference Finance Committee (CFC)	10				
Conference Literature Committee (CLC)	11				
Conference Service Committee (CSC)	12				
Conference Steps, Traditions and Concepts Committee (CSTCC)	12				
International Page					
Call for International Articles	15				
Announcements and Information					
 Progress on the 50th-Anniversary Edition of the S.L.A.A. Basic Text 	16				
F.W.S. Newsletter Editor Application	17				
Guidelines for F.W.S. Newsletter Publication	18				
Board 7 th Tradition Committee Flyer	19				
Conference Charter Committee Flyer	20				
Join the Board Finance Committee Flyer	21				
Join the Conference Finance Committee Flyer	22				
 Conference Service Committees; What they do and when they meet! 	23				
S.L.A.A. Service Forum	26				
Join the Board of Trustees	27				
Conference Translation and International Outreach Committee	28				
Conference Hospital and Institutions Subcommittee Flyer	29				
Conference Public Information Committee Poster	30				
Conference Diversity Committee Flyer	31				
Conference Sponsorship Committee Flyer	32				
Subscribe to the Quarterly F.W.S. Newsletter	33				
 Did You Know that the Fellowship-Wide Services (F.W.S.) Office 	34				
Guidelines and Deadlines for Submissions	35				

Editor's note: Please be sure to check https://slaafws.org/events for upcoming events.

Editor's Note

Breaking News! 2024 Virtual ABM will be held Thursday, August 8 - Saturday, August 10, 2024!

We are still looking for a new F.W.S. Newsletter Editor. You will find Guidelines for its production as well as an application for this important service position further in this edition of the Newsletter. If you're interested, have questions, or want to submit something to the Newsletter, please contact me via the website and I'll reach out to you: https://slaafws.org/fwsnews-submit/.

Executive Director's Report

November 15, 2023

Hello from South Texas! Fall has finally arrived down here, and with it a great deal of rain. Just as the flowers need the rain, so do our underground aquafers here. And thankfully they are now back up to a reasonable level after a very dry summer which caused many rivers and streams to become dry rocky canyons. The changing of the seasons always reminds me "This, too, shall pass."

We have a new booklet available on the F.W.S. web store! It is titled "Member Retention" and is a collection of articles from *the Journal* with a focus on member retention. It is already selling well, so check it out!

Although I mentioned this in the last Newsletter, it bears repeating: if you have a recurring contribution set up with your bank to mail a check to the F.W.S. Office, please make sure you have updated our address with your bank. Some contributions are still being mailed to the old office location. The new mailing address is "The Augustine Fellowship, 2411 NE Loop 410, Suite 122, San Antonio TX 78217".

The F.W.S. Office will be closed the following dates in observance of the 2023 holiday season: November 23rd-24th; December 25th – January 1st. Regular business operations will resume on Tuesday, January 2nd.

From the staff of the F.W.S. Office to all our Fellows around the world, we send our very best wishes! "See you" next year!
Respectfully,
Pam Reyes

Executive Director

Board of Trustees Chair's Message

As of November 20, 2023 – Prepared by Suzanne D., Board of Trustees Chair

Hello,

September was a busy month for the Board of Trustees (BOT). We held two 3-hour meetings. Much of what we discussed included ways to have a more efficient and cost-

effective Annual Business Meeting and the fact that June contributions were significantly low. We spent hours on the next year's budget and eventually approved it.

We reviewed and approved several members to Board committees. In October we learned that our F.W.S. Store had its annual inventory audit completed successfully and a half day early. This allowed for less disruption getting literature out to the fellowship. They worked diligently and we are very grateful for them. I personally visited them a couple of times and made sure they were supplied with coffee and homemade cookies to keep them going.

You may have noticed an unusually large Newsletter last edition. There was a lot of information to share. As I write this, I hope we are having a bountiful month of Gratitude with 7th Tradition donations to help us work to replace funds we had to move to our operating account from our prudent reserve.

Our Board committees discussed their individual goals for this year and voted to dissolve the Literature Creation & Editing Process (LCEP) work group that was a sub-committee of our Board Publishing & Distribution Committee (BPDC). We hope a Conference committee will consider taking up the cause of addressing non-conference approved literature similar to the LCEP. We respect the inverted triangle and would love the fellowship to give input on this topic.

Our social media presence as a general topic was discussed. Our Board Outreach Committee will continue that discussion and we will revisit it early next year.

Finally, it saddens me to share that Julie M. has decided to step away from the Board of Trustees service. We wish her well. In the interim, Jack F. will be the Liaison to the CTIOC, CPIC and CMRC while the appointment process for a new BOT member ensues.

Letter from the Board of Trustees

November 29, 2023

From: Board of Trustees, Fellowship-Wide Services, San Antonio, TX

To: The Worldwide S.L.A.A. Fellowship and Community

RE: Fraudulent charges identified and in process of recovery at S.L.A.A. F.W.S.'s

bank

We hope you are all well.

We, the members of the Board of Trustees of The Augustine Fellowship, are reaching out to you to share some financial news:

1. It was discovered that fraudulent charges were made by some outside fraudster to our F.W.S. bank account between September 6 and September 11, 2023.

- 2. Those charges totaled \$7,368.78. The \$7,368.78 will be returned to us from the bank after their investigation but we already have access to a transitional credit in that amount from the bank.
- 3. As soon as it was discovered, we contacted the bank to dispute the fraudulent charges. We also filed a police report with the San Antonio Police.
- 4. The account that was compromised has been closed and a new one was opened per Bank protocol when this happens. We have instituted necessary changes to the onboarding and transition process that will provide for a safer and more robust transfer of the signatory and financial oversight responsibilities when new Board Trustees are elected.
- 5. There is no evidence that anyone associated with F.W.S. had anything to do with this fraudulent activity.

The Board of Trustees understands and appreciates the concerns and worry that unofficial information pertaining to this event has caused, and we apologize for the delay in reporting these events to the Fellowship. We are committed to our stewardship function of all the assets and resources of our organization, and to serve all of you with adherence to the Steps, Traditions and Concepts.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have. We look forward to continuing serving you.

Board Committee Reports

Board Development Committee (BDC)

Mission Statement: **Board Development Committee (BDC)** focuses on the internal activities, systems and procedures of the BOT to insure its long-term effectiveness.

Meeting Information: This committee continues to meet the fourth Sunday of the month at 12:00 pm ET, 11:00 am CT, 9:00 am PT, 5:00 pm CET.

Goals established by the Committee for this Conference Year 2024:

- Calendar of responsibilities for BDC w/updated associated documents, to include the BOT Committees self-evaluation document, fliers, invitations, BOT election process script document, etc.
- 2) Board Interview Application Review and add questions or edit current ones like removing address for example.
- 3) Update Orientation for BOT (Revise expectations to make current, scripts, 5-min videos, when, where, how, check-ins, possibly splitting it up once Trustees have some time in their roles and have some context, etc.)

Additional items from October:

- The BDC discussed and then decided to send three invitations to join the BDC, associated paperwork and BOT Committee flier to three delegates of the 2023 ABM/C and now awaiting responses.
- The BDC voted to recommence a subcommittee to help with all the updating of documents that need to be done. Many documents haven't been reviewed since as late as 2014 or 2016 for example.

Prepared by Suzanne D., BDC Chairperson November 11, 2023

Board Programs and Membership Committee and ABM Planning Committee (BPMC and ABM PC)

We meet the first Sunday of the month, 5:30 p.m. PT/ 9:30 a.m. AUS the next day

Members: Chris D. (Chair, BOT); Jack F. (BOT); Karma K. (Non-BOT)

Our three goals were determined to be:

- a. F.W.S. Newsletter
- b. Being available to the BOT
- c. ABC/M, including options for hybrid, non-US site, using Travel Equalization Program to help non-US folks attend if held in US.
- d. Archives project
- F.W.S. Newsletter

- a. September issue on the website. 100 pages new record!
- b. Approved edits to the application to be the F.W.S. Newsletter Editor and the Guidelines for Production.
- c. Ad in September issue and on the website for F.W.S. Newsletter Editor.
- d. Deadline for submissions for the December issue was November 19 but was delayed to November 26 because of the limited number of submissions.

2. S.L.A.A. Archive

- a. BPMC voted to create an Archives Subcommittee of the BPMC (was Rita H.'s idea). First members are Nora B., Rita H. and Chris D., pending BOT approval of Nora's and Rita's membership.
- b. Several members have archives, and our goal will be to at the very least inventory the items, hopefully digitize and perhaps centralize them. More will be revealed
- 3. ABC/M is going to be fully virtual for 2024.
 - a. Orange County has again agreed to be the Local Planning Committee for the 2024 ABM!!
 - b. The ABM Planning Committee (ABM PC) met for the first time on November 15, 2023. What is clear is that the first matter of business is to determine the dates of the 2024 ABM. Plan is to determine those at our next meeting on December 13, 2023.

Current membership of the ABM PC is:

Nora B. CCC Chair

Chris D. BOT member and Programs & Membership Chair

Pam Reyes Executive Director

SuzAnne D. BOT Chair

LPC ABM Chair

David W. Board Technology Committee Member

Ari F. CCC Representative

Sam E. BOT member and Treasurer's Representative

Celia G. CFC Representative

In service, Chris D.

Board Publishing and Distribution Committee (BPDC)

Dear Fellowship Member,

Welcome to the next Board Publishing and Distribution Committee (BPDC) message to the Fellowship-Wide Services (F.W.S.) Newsletter for the Fall/Winter of 2023.

This letter is meant to inform each member of the Fellowship of Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous (S.L.A.A.) about the activities of the BPDC during the last several months. You are the people for whom we are doing this service and are thankful to all of you for giving us a chance to "Give back through Service!"

The <u>BPDC's Mission Statement</u> is:

The Board Publishing and Distribution Committee's sole task is to tackle the responsibility of making literature ready for sale and distribution.

The <u>BPDC's meeting schedule</u> is for a 75-minute call on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month for Conference Year (CY) 2024.

Membership: Anthony P. (IL), Lee W. (NM), Tavia K. (NY), Hernan V. (Peru), and Rick B. (FL) – chair.

Recent Activities:

- 1. Resolved to use a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) document for running and facilitating a BPDC call to keep everyone on the same page and how to work through the literature that has been approved.
 - a. Google Docs, Dropbox reorganization, Lead for each piece of literature.
- 2. Reaffirmed the Motion to dissolve the LCEP subcommittee.
- 3. Wrote to the "A State Of Grace" (ASOG) Writing Group to offer any support they may need.
- 4. Discussed the possibility of creating a Spanish Translation of the Basic Text Work Group to help get this literature to print.
- 5. Wrote a Letter of Appreciation for the members of the LCEP subcommittee.
- 6. Forwarded the Anorexia 8 & 9 Booklet to the Board for their final review.
- 7. May work with the BCTC to make all Translation related documents congruent.
- 8. Returned Super Service Star to the Writing Group to get some edits done in the original format.
- 9. Drafted a Letter of Invitation to possible subcommittees of the BPDC.
- 10. Working on the standard formatting for the "12 Steps in Plain Language":
 - a. Adding a Cover Page, Copyright page on the inside cover, and a Table of Contents.
- 11. Considering drafting a "Process" for Journal Focused Booklets to streamline how this type of literature gets through the Committee and available for sale.
 - a. For when current members have rotated out of this service, the Committee will have the institutional information to work efficiently.
- 12. Looking for support on creating a "documents library" that will retain items in a secure location for S.L.A.A. in the future to have access to work from writing groups.
- 13. Trying to find a way to archive approved processes from past work, instead of having to re-hash items that have been accepted as "standard procedure" in

- the past.
- 14. Considering drafting a "non-conference approved" label for literature items that have not gone through the approval process (e.g., *the Journal*, etc.).
- 15. Did research of how other 12-Step Fellowship's state Bequest wording to find direction for S.L.A.A. in this area.

The BPDC is working diligently to finish up with literature from the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) that was approved by the Conference members. The Committee is "Giving back what has so freely been given to us" as a guiding principle in all the activities of the BPDC. I am grateful to all the members (especially the non-BOT members) for their commitment, seriousness, and drive to be of service to the Fellowship of Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous.

In Service to the Fellowship that saved my life, Rick B. (FL.) – BPDC chair

Spotlight on Board of Trustees Members

Phoenix G., Houston, TX, USA

Howdy,

This is Phoenix G. in Houston (they/them). I am in my second year serving on the Board of Trustees. I have been a member of S.L.A.A. since July 2016 and sober since November 26, 2018, recently celebrating five years of sobriety.

In the beginning, I would get a few months of sobriety and then go back out—sometimes be gone from meetings for months at a time, sometimes simply hooking up with qualifiers after a meeting. I'd go to Houston Intergroup and just observe. I'd occasionally get a sponsor, and then get dropped when I'd stumble upon a new "soulmate". Still in Step Zero, my life was completely unmanageable, and I was trying to prove that I wasn't powerless. There was a glimmer of hope, however, in the meetings and in the Basic Text—which I obsessed over. There was something about S.L.A.A. that I was drawn to, yet all I could do was share the insanity that I could not stop. November 2018 was particularly brutal, and after acting out on my birthday weekend (always a trigger), I made a decision; I decided that S.L.A.A. was good for me, so I committed to being in S.L.A.A. no matter what, whether or not I could stay sober. I had been trying to keep myself sober, and upon reflection I needed a higher power, which in that moment became S.L.A.A. They say there is a very fine line between nervous breakdown and true surrender, which was my experience. And that became my sobriety date.

I continued attending Houston Intergroup, and during the pandemic was elected as a Delegate for the 2021 virtual Annual Business Conference/ Meeting (ABC/M). At the 2022 ABC/M in Sacramento, CA, I was nominated and elected onto the Board of Trustees (BOT) for a three-year term.

Today in sobriety, my life is full in ways I never would have dreamed. I was able to go back to school and finished my MBA in International Business; I currently work full-time in contract work. I also own my own publishing company and published a planner I created—my pandemic side-hustle. My BOT time commitment is between 7-15 hours per month. I have lots of dogs and cats, and raise-to-release Monarch butterflies. I love toy dinosaurs and painting. I went from she/her to her/they, and now I use they/them pronouns, as a result of living an authentic life in this program. I have half a shaved head, which brings me so much non-binary joy. I am LGBTQ and BIPOC. I have eight 12-step fellowships, yes eight, with S.L.A.A. as my core program, and the rest each have their own day of the week. I love hot power yoga and just started yoga teacher training as a part of a bigger vision for my life, with some parts yet to be revealed. I call my higher power: Universe, Breath, Water, or Source. I know that I am living on borrowed time, and in partnership with my highest power, I am co-creating a life where I am of service in the world, using all my experience and talents.

In Loving Service, Phoenix G. of Houston, TX, USA (they/them) Board Member, Board of Trustees of S.L.A.A.

Conference Committee Corner

Conference Finance Committee (CFC)

Dear Fellowship Member,

Welcome to the Conference Finance Committee's (CFC's) report 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 Conference 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 <u>Tuesday</u> of the month for an hour at 7.30 p.m. ET via Zoom. Please note our meeting change.

Recent Activities:

- 1. Prepared the Conference Committee Budget for 2024 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. Manages the Conference Committee's shared Zoom Account
- 6. Draft CFC Fundraising Suggestions (CFS) to help Intergroups fundraise
- 7. 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 (Bali, Indonesia), CFC Chair Joel S (San Francisco, CA, USA), CFC Vice Chair Finance Committee Link: slaafws.org/committee/CFC/

Conference Literature Committee (CLC)

CLC Mission Statement:

The Conference Literature Committee (CLC) fosters quality literature in support of SLAA 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.

How We Conduct Our Meetings — <u>CLC Code of Ethics</u>

We meet the 4th Saturday of each month (connection info below)

Positions: Volunteer Positions:

Chair: Susan G. Vice-Chair: Ray H. Senior Advisor: Lee W.

Style Committee Chair: Peggy

Minutes Recorder: BOT Liaison: Rick B.

Post 2023 ABM; CLC motion status:

- CLC-004 Framework For Living <u>Did not pass</u>. Currently being reviewed by style committee with plans to bring it back again next year
- CLC-003 12 Steps in Plain Language Passed!
- A State Of Grace <u>Passed!</u> Now with the Style Committee for last minute preparation to hand-off to the BOT
- CLC-073 Making the Most of Meetings <u>Did not pass</u>. Current status -TBD
- By-Laws Motion— Conference Literature Representative to be added to the Composition of Voting Members Document: <u>Did not pass</u>.

IFDs from 2023 ABM being brought forward as Motions for 2024 (Pending final voting):

- CLC-053 50th Anniversary of The Basic Text chapters 1-8
- CLC-054 SLAA on Internet
- CLC-068 Anorexia 10,11,12 Working the Program not the Problem
- CLC-087 Anorexia: Sexual, Social, Emotional Revisions

Writing projects that are in the queue to be reviewed by Style Committee in 2023-2024 before they can be submitted as IFD or Motion for 2024 ABM are listed in no particular order below:

- CLC-060 Strengthening Sobriety Through Sponsorship
- CLC-008 H.O.W. Step and Sponsorship Guide
- CLC-088 The Promises of Healing from Fantasy Addiction
- CLC-079 Index to A State of Grace
- CLC-064 Member Retention

Connection info:

Join (DEDICATED CLC) Zoom Meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6518051209?pwd=2AB0YKrlXkVA37qGmWMOE5KoRwACa8.1

Meeting ID: 651 805 1209

Passcode: 12345 One tap mobile

+16699006833,,6518051209# US (San Jose)

+16694449171,,6518051209# US

Meeting ID: 651 805 1209

Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kzKPqADhp

Next meeting: November 23, 2023, 9:00 Pacific Time, 10:00 Mountain, 11:00

Central, 12:00 Eastern

Conference Service Committee (CSC)

The Conference Service Committee (CSC) is undertaking a Global Service Inventory to identify service-related resources available to the worldwide S.L.A.A. community. This project is driven by acknowledging the importance of service as one of the five major resources we draw upon in recovery. This inventory will help those who are unclear on how to engage in service or looking for options for how to serve. If you happen to know of a service-related resource (such as literature, webpages, or recordings) that should be included in this inventory, please send details to the CSC, including a web link to that resource, using our page on the S.L.A.A. website. That address is https://slaafws.org/committee/csc/

Conference Steps, Traditions and Concepts Committee (CSTCC)

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 #2023-3):

When a fellow creates a motion to be added to the agenda of a conference committee meeting, does the committee chair have the right to decide on their own to not present it at a meeting? Does taking that authority truly honor Tradition 2? "Tradition 2: For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority -- a loving God as this Power may be expressed through our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern."

Response #1:

The Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts provide some guidance for this situation.

Per Concept Ten, each service responsibility is matched by equal service authority, with the scope defined by tradition (lower case "t"), resolution, job description, etc. By tradition, a committee chair has responsibility for developing the meeting agenda.

So, they would seem to have the authority to determine what does or does not go on it.

Concept Twelve, Warranties "d" and "f" can also provide some input. Per Warranty "d", all important decisions should be reached by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity. Per Warranty "f", all aspects of the Conference (including committees) should be democratic in thought and action. If an item is not allowed to be placed on the agenda, then it cannot be discussed and voted upon. Having discussion and voting would be the most democratic method of addressing an issue. The item could be an important one, so not bringing it to the committee could be out of alignment with both of these Warranties.

As indicated in the Question, Tradition Two provides further clarify. There is one ultimate authority, a loving Higher Power. Our leaders do not govern. Not allowing an item to be placed on a conference committee agenda could be seen as governing, especially when that decision is held up to the standards set by the Warranties in Concept Twelve.

Response #2:

In order to answer this question, I would need to know what authority was previously assigned to this chairperson, through group conscience, by the committee. Since we take group conscience on service positions and sometimes their job descriptions, it may be that this authority was voted on by the group in a previous meeting and Tradition Four says every group is autonomous. I can't speak to this without more information.

Response #3:

In most cases I would agree that a motion should be presented before a committee and the committee would then see if there is a second and proceed through their process and vote on the motion.

I can also see circumstances where a committee chair might not. It depends on the rules of the committee, and the motion.

Examples would be:

- Making a motion outside the scope of the committee (a motion to the Literature committee on a budget issue)
- Making a motion that has been turned down in the recent past (if the vote didn't go the way the person wanted, bringing a few more allies to the subsequent meeting and trying to vote again)
- Making a motion undoing a previous recent motion (if a committee votes and approves A in one month there should be time to have A in place before trying to repeal that motion)
- Not presenting the motion in a timely manner (2-3 days before a meeting might not be sufficient time to make it to the agenda – the motion might need to wait until a later meeting)
- Agenda is too full most committee meetings are one to one and a half hours long; if there are already many items on the agenda a new motion might need to slip to a later meeting

• The motion is unclear or confusing, the chair might ask for the motion to be cleaned up prior to presenting it to the committee

Response #4:

A thorough reading of all the Concepts will help with the response to this question. Certainly, Tradition Two — and all the Traditions — is helpful as well. I am moved by Concept Nine specifically.

The first sentence of Concept Nine seems particularly relevant: "Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety." Our committee leaders are trusted servants who guide our activities, not govern, not direct our activities. We expect our leaders to think through their decisions and actions, not leaders who mindlessly follow the directions of others. Our committee leaders need to be able to function by steering the committee toward accomplishment of its mission.

If the committee chair was forced to submit every motion submitted by a fellow to the committee, the committee could be strangled by extraneous discussion. The committee could be prevented from achieving its mission. On the other hand, if the chair prevents appropriate motions from reaching the committee, it is the responsibility of the committee membership to elect a new leader.

The Concepts are a brilliant guide to our service behavior. I hope they will receive greater attention as we move forward.

Call for 2023 (and Beyond!) Articles

We are a global fellowship with a world of stories. Each story told has the potential to strengthen recovery for all of us.

We are looking for articles from members outside the United States that share your <u>service experiences</u>, as well as your strength and hope. Some information to include in the article might be answers to the following questions:

- -When did you first begin to realize you could be of service?
- -What was your first service experience? How did you feel about it?
- -When did you begin sponsoring others?
- -What has service done for you?
- -What types of service work have you done and what types are you doing now?

Articles are in English and your native language. Suggested article length varies from 250-500 English words on a single-spaced typewritten page.

Deadlines for Submissions are Sundays:

2024 February 11 – March Issue 2024 May 12 – June Issue 2024 August 11 – September Issue 2024 November 10 – December Issue

However, feel free to submit articles sooner if you are moved to serve the fellowship in this way. Below are additional guidelines to help you.

- Make submissions in a .doc or .docx file, except for flyers created for specific events or requests.
- Remember to maintain anonymity by using first name and last initial.
- Place periods between the initials in the fellowship name in written material that is made public: S.L.A.A.
- The newsletter is not a recovery-oriented publication per se and not to be confused with the *Journal*, which publishes articles of recovery.
- Use this email address for submissions: https://slaafws.org/FWSnews-submit.

You are also welcome to submit flyers created for specific S.L.A.A. events, which should be submitted in English as a .pdf file.

Questions? Contact the editor at https://slaafws.org/FWSnews-submit.

Rounding the Bend Progress on the 50th-Anniversary Edition of the S.L.A.A. Basic Text

The 50th-Anniversary Basic Text Subcommittee (50BTS) of the Conference Literature Committee (CLC) is pleased to announce that a completed draft of the special 50th-anniversary, second edition of the Basic Text will be ready soon for review by the Fellowship.

At the 2023 ABM some members were concerned about changes to the founder's story in chapters one and two. In October the founder, "Rich," was contacted to ask if he was interested in reviewing the edits to his story. He was touched and incredibly happy to be involved in this process. Not only did he approve the edits, he made a few of his own! He also wrote a preface to the second edition.

Since the update in the September F.W.S. Newsletter, this is the current status of the draft:

Foreword is complete.

Preface to the First Edition is edited.

Preface to the Second Edition, written by the founder, "Rich," is included.

Chapters One and Two have been reviewed and approved by the founder, "Rich."

Chapter Three author, "Kate," has been contacted. Awaiting an answer.

Chapters Four through Eight feedback has been reviewed, discussed, and incorporated. A list of what has been changed will be provided since the 2023 ABM, so that those who have read it already do not need to re-read it.

Personal stories. Eight of the original 17 stories have been selected for inclusion. New stories have been edited and approved by the authors.

It is crucial to get this draft second edition of the Basic Text into the hands of members. The 50BTS is discussing how best to do this.

The 50BTS will also be updating its web page on the F.W.S. website www.slaafws.org/50bt1, so that everyone has access to the information on this project. We are rounding the bend and getting closer to the completion of the second edition of the S.L.A.A. Basic Text in celebration of S.L.A.A.'s 50th anniversary.

F.W.S. Newsletter Editor Application

The following information will be used by the Board of Trustees and the Board Programs and Membership Committee only for the purpose of evaluating a candidate for service as the F.W.S. Newsletter Editor. This information will be held in confidence by the BOT and the BPMC.

Name (first, last):
Home Address (street, city, state, ZIP):
Phone Numbers: Home— Cell—
Email Address:
Local S.L.A.A. Intergroup Affiliation:
Sobriety Date (one year minimum):
Length of Membership in S.L.A.A. Fellowship:
History of Service in S.L.A.A.:
History of Service in Other Non-Profit Organizations (if any):
- Hotory of Convice in Caron Non-Front Organizations (in any)
Professional Skills Relevant to F.W.S. Newsletter Service:
Please feel free to share any other information that you would like the BOT to know.

Guidelines for F.W.S. Newsletter Production

The F.W.S. Newsletter content will contain items such as: Conference and Board Committee News, ABM and Convention information, F.W.S. office news, a Traditions column, Financial/Contribution News, Bulletins, World News, and BOT/Group/Member News.

The Board Programs and Membership Committee (BPMC), which acts as liaison to the F.W.S. Newsletter, represents the Board's interests. If the F.W.S. Newsletter needs help with the publication, it will seek assistance from the BOT.

A draft copy of the F.W.S. Newsletter shall be sent to the BOT Chair, the Office Supervisor, the BPMC members, and the Webmaster for review before the F.W.S. Newsletter is sent out to the Fellowship, one week prior to publication.

The F.W.S. Newsletter is to be posted on the S.L.A.A. website and delivered to the fellowship via email message in electronic format.

The F.W.S. Newsletter welcomes submissions from the Board of Trustees and the F.W.S. Office, as well as the Conference Committee members and Delegates,

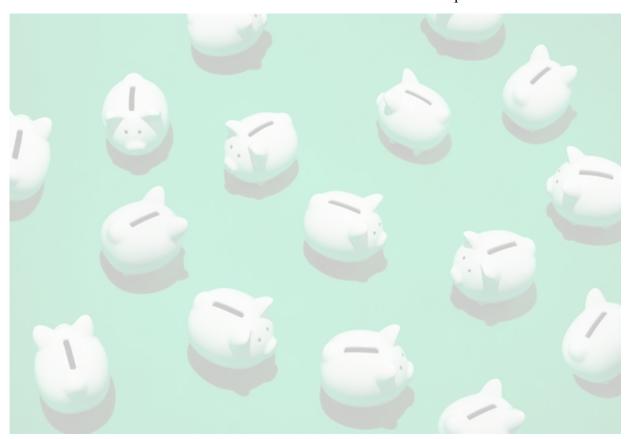
Submissions for the F.W.S. Newsletter are due on the Sunday following the second Saturday of the month (after the BOT meeting), quarterly – February, May, August, and November.

Have Fundraising ideas? Consider joining the

Board 7th Tradition Committee

CONSIDER JOINING THIS BOARD COMMITTEE

And be of service to the BOT and the Fellowship



If you are interested in helping this Board Committee or have some Fundraising ideas, please contact or consider joining the **Board 7th Tradition Committee**Six months of continuous sobriety are a requirement.

Plus, filling out an application and being elected by the BOT to this Committee.

The B7TC helps the Board to meet their fiscal goals for the year.

The B7TC meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7pm ET and 4pm PT.

Reach the B7TC by using the Board Secretary page of the F.W.S. website.

slaafws.org/botsecretary/









December 2023 Issue



Are you interested in helping steer the fellowship's finances?

Join the Board Finance Committee! To join, contact us at https://slaafws.org/bottreasurer



Consider joining the S.L.A.A.

CONFERENCE FINANCE COMMITTEE

3rd Tuesdays of the month @ 7.30pm EST

Administering the funding of the Conference Committees

Helping all levels of the Fellowship remain financially self-supporting

Zoom 870 3527 9452 Code 150084 SLAAFWS.ORG/COMMITTEE/CFC/



S.L.A.A. Conference Committees; What they do and when they meet! Page 1 of 3



Any member of S.L.A.A. is welcome to attend. Give back what we freely receive!

CAC – Conference Anorexia Committee is to carry 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. For more info: https://slaafws.org/committee/cac

Meeting: 1 hr 4th Sunday @ 11:00am PT, 12:00pm MT, 1:00pm CT, 2:00pm ET, 8:00pm CEST

Zoom Meeting ID: 831 8461 6506 Passcode: 308457

CBC – The Conference By-Laws Committee is responsible for maintaining and updating the current S.L.A.A. By-Laws, in cooperation with the BOT. It acts in an advisory capacity to the BOT, Fellowship-Wide Services and the Conference with regards to potential or requested By-Law changes. The Committee also works with the BOT to facilitate changes to the By-Laws passed in accordance with Article XIV of the By-Laws.

For more info: https://slaafws.org/committee/cbc

Meeting: 1 hr 3rd Sunday @ 6:30pm ET, 5:30pm CT, 4:30pm MT, 3:30pm PT Zoom Meeting ID: 898 4668 2623 Passcode: 419459 Click here for direct link

CCC – Conference Charter Committee - Responsible for the planning and facilitation of the ABC/M in cooperation with the BOT and F.W.S. (In the absence of a CCC, the BOT and F.W.S. are responsible for running the ABC/M.) Creates the ABM Agenda, chairs the ABC/M, and is liaison for the entire Conference to the BOT and F.W.S. The Chair of the CCC is a voting member of the Conference.

For more info: https://slaafws.org/committee/ccc

Meeting: 1 1/2 hr 1st Sunday @ 12:30pm ET, 11:30am CT, 10:30am MT, and 9:30am PT

Meeting ID: 869 4572 1867 Passcode: CCCService

CDC – Devoted to fostering an inclusive environment within our Fellowship that ensures that we are welcoming to the full diversity that exists across those who are in the Fellowship, and those who still suffer.

For more info: https://slaafws.org/committee/cdc

Meeting: 1 hr 1st Saturday @ 9:00am PT, 10:00am MST, 11:00am CT, and 12:00pm ET

Zoom Meeting ID: 870 7485 4515 Passcode: 286346 Click here for direct link

CFC – 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.

For more info: https://slaafws.org/committee/cfc

Meeting: 1 hr 3rd Sunday @ 4:30pm PT, 6:30pm CT, 7:30pm ET

Zoom Meeting ID: 870 3527 9452 Passcode: 150084 Click here for direct link

CHRC – The Conference Healthy Relationships Committee is responsible for the development and implementation of resources and tools that enhance our recovery as sex and love addicts by increasing our capacity for building and sustaining healthy relationships of all types.

For more info: https://slaafws.org/committee/chrc

Meeting: 1 hr 3rd Sunday @ 1:00pm PT, 2:00pm MT, 3:00pm CT, 4:00pm ET

Zoom Meeting ID: 869 5232 9988 Passcode: 381403

The F.W.S. Newsletter Page 23 December 2023 Issue



S.L.A.A. Conference Committees; What they do and when they meet! Page 2 of 3



Any member of S.L.A.A. is welcome to attend. Give back what we freely receive!

CICC – Conference Intergroup Communications Committee is responsible for the ongoing open communication between the existing and new Groups and Intergroups of S.L.A.A. It focuses on sharing information and working together to make the Fellowship more accessible and effective.

For more info: https://slaafws.org/committee/cicc

Meeting: 1 hr 3rd Sunday @ 11:30 AM PT, 1:30 PM CT, 2:30 PM ET, 7:30 PM UK, 4:30 AM AET (Mon)

Zoom Meeting ID: 820 2641 7729 Password: 284368 Click for direct link

CJC – Conference Journal Committee is responsible for the creation of the monthly/bi-monthly "meeting in print" magazine focusing on S.L.A.A. recovery and related issues. The committee works with the BOT and F.W.S. to ensure publication and to address the Journal policies.

For more info: https://slaafws.org/committee/cjc

Meeting: 1 hr 1st Saturday @ 11:00am PT, 12:00pm MT, 1:00pm CT, 2:00pm ET

Zoom Meeting ID: 861 2519 5968 Passcode: CJCYAY!

CLC – Conference Literature Committee creates quality literature in support of SLAA 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.

For more info: https://slaafws.org/committee/clc

Meeting: 1 1/2 hrs 4th Saturday @ 9:00am PT, 10:00am MT, 11:00am CT, 12:00pm ET

Zoom Meeting ID: 651 805 1209 Passcode: 12345 Click for direct link

CMRC – Conference Member Retention Committee is responsible for the development and implementation of tools and methods to retain members, as well as accessing the wisdom, experience, strength, and hope of long time members. For more info: https://slaafws.org/committee/cmrc

Meeting: 2 hrs 2nd Sunday @ 11:30am PT, 2:30pm ET Zoom Meeting ID: 835 8688 4574 Passcode: 593655

CPIC (merged with CHIC) – The primary purpose of the Conference Public Information Committee is to carry the S.L.A.A. message to sex and love addicts by:(a) working with national and international service entities, intergroups, and local groups to convey S.L.A.A. information to the potential members and their supporters; (b) providing materials to help members carry the S.L.A.A. message; and (c) supporting service bodies to do outreach at intergroup and group levels.

For more info: https://slaafws.org/committee/cpic

Meeting: 1 hr 1st Sunday @ 1:00pm PT, 3:00pm CT, 4:00pm ET

Meeting ID: 896 4184 9587 Passcode: 959399

CSC – Conference Service Committee is responsible for educating and increasing members' commitment to

service. For more info: https://slaafws.org/committee/csc

Meeting: 1 hr 2nd Friday @ 1:00pm PT, 3:00pm CT, 4:00pm ET

Meeting ID: 817 0928 4575 Passcode: none required Click for direct link

The F.W.S. Newsletter Page 24 December 2023 Issue



S.L.A.A. Conference Committees; What they do and when they meet! Page 3 of 3



Any member of S.L.A.A. is welcome to attend. Give back what we freely receive!

CSPC – Conference Sponsorship Committee is to support and strengthen all forms of S.L.A.A. Sponsorship.

For more info: https://slaafws.org/committee/cspc

Meeting: 1 hr 3rd Thursday @ 6:00pm ET, 5:00pm CT, 3:00pm PT

Zoom Meeting ID: 823 4603 7240 Passcode: 247012

CSTCC – Conference Steps, Traditions and Concepts Committee is to promote the study, understanding and application of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts throughout the S.L.A.A. fellowship.

For more info: https://slaafws.org/committee/cstcc

Meeting: 1 hr 4th Sunday @ 12:00pm PT, 1:00pm MT, 2:00pm CT, 3:00pm ET, 7:00pm GMT

Zoom Meeting ID: 279 342 524 Passcode: 7701077

CTIOC – Conference Translation and International Outreach Committee is responsible for providing support to International S.L.A.A. Intergroups and/or groups to carry the message of recovery to the suffering sex and love addict in their own language. For more info and call-in number contact: https://slaafws.org/committee/ctioc

Meeting: 1 hr 4th Sunday of the month @ 9:00pm PT, 12:00pm ET, 6:00pm Central European Time

Meeting ID: 815 7357 7770 Passcode: 205254

The F.W.S. Newsletter Page 25 December 2023 Issue

S.L.A.A. Service Forum

is a new way for people doing service in S.L.A.A. to connect with each other and share their struggles and solutions:

- questions and answers
- best practices
- new ideas and suggestions
- how to deal with problems



The forum was created and is maintained by the S.L.A.A. Conference Intergroup Communications Committee (CICC) which has the mission to:

- enable ongoing open communication between the existing and new groups and Intergroups of S.L.A.A.
- share information and work together to make the Fellowship more accessible and effective.

The forum is divided into discussion categories:

- Public information
- Sponsorship
- Websites
- Anorexia
- Conventions
- Retreats
- Literature
- Procedures and Guidelines / By-Laws
- Inspiration line
- Meetings
- Annual Business Meeting
- Journals / Newsletters
- Safety The F.W.S. Newsletter

- Diversity
- Finance
- Steps, Traditions and Concepts
- Translation and International Outreach
- Service
- Member Retention
- Hospitals and Institutions
- Healthy Relationships
- Legal Issues
- Intergroup
 Communications

Instructions to access S.L.A.A. Service forum

To participate or even see any of the forum you will need to create an account.

Just go to https://service.slaa.network, or you can scan the QR Code below.

Go to the "Sign Up" button, and create an account with an anonymous username. So if you are Anton Petrowski, you might put your first name and initial and maybe some numbers (eg. anton85p). You will need to use a password with at least 8 characters (more secure passwords use letters, numbers and special characters, eg. 1up#*~@8). You will also be asked for the Intergroup (or group) you are associated with.

Please remember that use of this forum is limited to members of S.L.A.A., and we endeavor to treat the forum as a closed meeting. We welcome your contributions, as long as they are considerate, respectful and collaborative in nature.

If you have any issues, contact us at forum@slaa.network



hber 2023 Issue



Please Consider Joining the **Board of Trustees**Or nominate someone you know



To be elected to the Board :

The Bylaws require the member to have three years of continuous, self-defined sobriety in S.L.A.A. (Non-S.L.A.A. members can be on the Board). See below ***

Board service commitments:

- Have a working knowledge of the 12 Steps and the 12 Traditions of S.L.A.A.
- Are willing to commit to a three-year term.
- Travel to the Annual Business Conference/Meeting (ABC/M) (7 days) each summer during their term to participate in Board meetings 3 days before and 1 day after the ABC/M (expenses paid).
- Are willing to participate in a minimum of six 3-hour Board conference calls plus BOT Committee meetings and many email discussions plus liaise with several Conference committees.
- Have at least 20-30 hours a month available for BOT service.

The following list is experience based items that the BDC recommends for potential board members but are not required by the Bylaws:

- Have skills and abilities valuable to the organization.
- Have served as non-BOT member of a BOT Committee for at least 3 months.
- work well in a group dynamic.
- Have a functional understanding of group conscience.
- Have experience in S.L.A.A. service at the Intergroup and/or Conference level.
- Have served as a delegate at the Conference level for at least one year.

Requirements for Non S.L.A.A. Board Members :

Those Trustees who are not qualified members of the Fellowship shall be persons from the community at large who have made substantial contributions to the purposes of the Fellowship principles stated in the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts.

*** BDC recommends for Non-S.L.A.A. members :

- To know and love the S.L.A.A. Fellowship for how it has helped family, friends or clients.
- To have skills from such areas as legal, financial and/or business fields.
- To bring an added perspective due to being outside the S.L.A.A. program.

If you are interested in serving or know anyone who might be; please Let Us Know by sending an email at this link: www.slaafws.org/bdc



CONFERENCE TRANSLATION AND INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE



We are looking for bilingual S.L.A.A. members who are fluent in the following languages: Hindi, Urdu, Chinese, Finnish, Japanese, Corean, Russian, Arabic, Romanian, Vietnamese, Thai, Greek, Turkish, Bengali, Persian, Mandarin, Indonesian etc...

If you are interested in carrying the message of recovery to the suffering sex and love addict in their own language, please contact the Conference Translation and International Outreach Committee at:

https://slaafws.org/committee/ctioc or e-mail slaa.ctioc@gmail.com



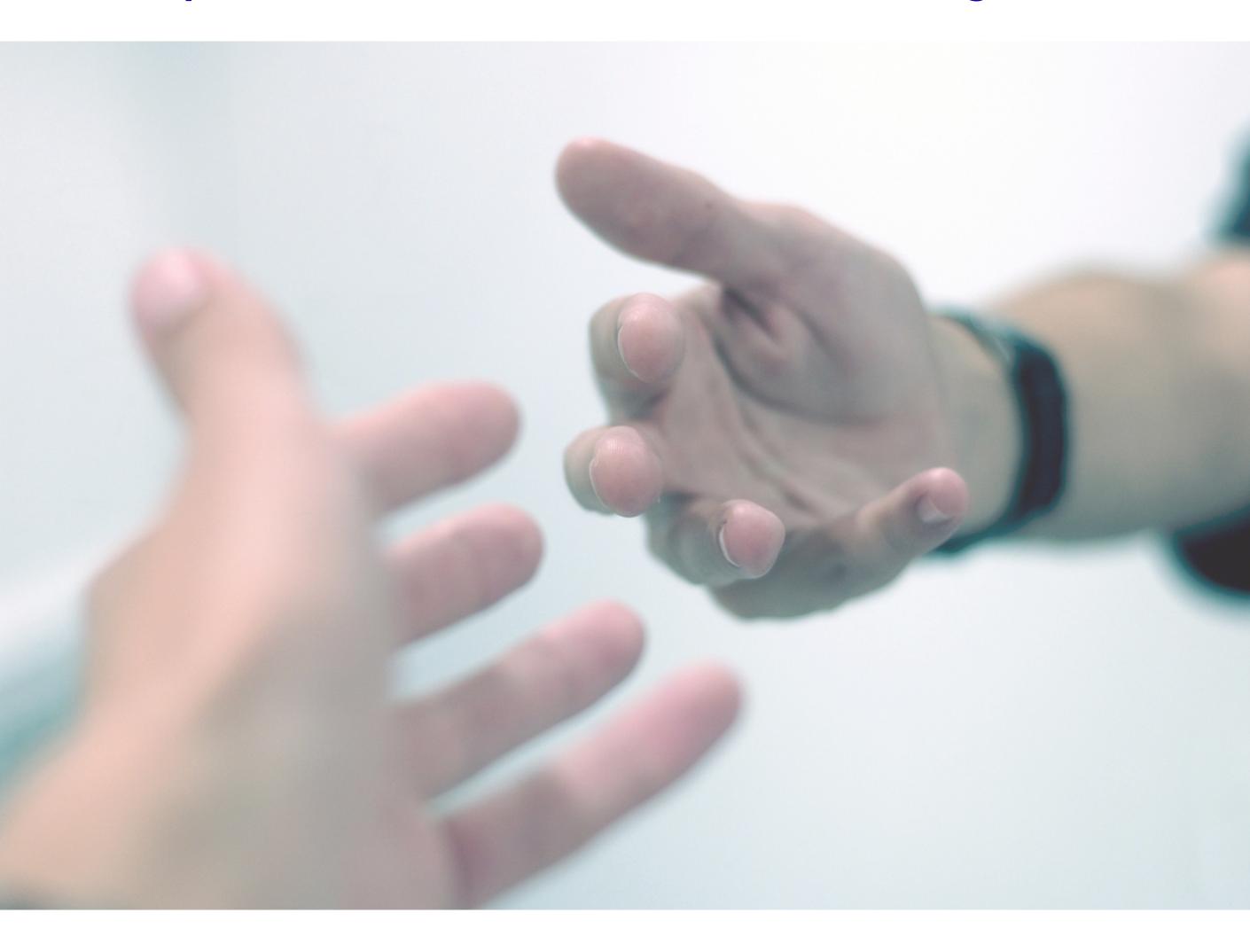
Carry the Message...

JOIN THE CONFERENCE HOSPITAL AND INSTITUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE!!

Developing new ways for the Fellowship to reach members who are incarcerated, in treatment centers, or otherwise unable to attend regular meetings

To join our monthly meeting slaafws.org/committee/cpic

Help Others Reach Out to the Still Suffering Addict



SHARE YOUR INTERGROUP'S **OUTREACH MATERIALS**

The Conference Public Information Committee (CPIC) supports the fellowship as a whole to carry the message to suffering sex and love addicts.

Instead of every Intergroup "reinventing the wheel" with all-new materials, the CPIC exists to help Intergroups and Groups share materials.

If your Intergroup (or Group without an Intergroup) has used outreach materials successfully - especially using new technology please consider sharing.

This includes digital:

- print files for letters, flyers, posters
- media items such as online news
- design files for outdoor signage
- audio and video recordings.

Items can be submitted at the CPIC page on the S.L.A.A. website:

http://www.slaafws.org/committee/cpic

In order to be shareable, the outreach materials must:

- be approved in Group Conscience for submission to the CPIC for sharing
- comply with the S.L.A.A. 12 Traditions and 12 Media Guidelines
- comply with the approved S.L.A.A. Suggestions for **Public Outreach**
- comply with the CPIC Guidelines for Video
- be only about S.L.A.A. informational topics and/or convey our message by the telling of our stories.

Necessary consents and releases are also required for the CPIC to share the content.

The CPIC works with Intergroups and Groups to ensure:

- all shared material complies with S.L.A.A.'s requirements as outreach or public information; and
- your service body is satisfied with the final format and how your material will be shared.

December 2023 Issue Page 30

Conference Diversity Committee (CDC)

Join us the First Saturday of every Month! 9am PST, 11am CT, 12pm EST, 5pm GMT

Some of Our Current Projects:

- Creating a workshop for fellows to attend and learn about conscious inclusion and how it relates to The 12 Traditions of S.L.A.A.
- Advocating and supporting diversity and inclusion at the Annual Business Meeting.
- Maintaining a resource for the fellowship to access Zoom meetings with closed captioning and live transcription.
- Providing alternative options for inclusivity in meetings- supporting diverse formats, reviewing descriptors and language used, and providing safety considerations.

The mission of the Conference Sponsorship Committee (CSPC) is to support and strengthen all forms of S.L.A.A. Sponsorship

CURRENT SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Literature Working Group: A new draft sponsorship literature is available for your input and feedback. We'd love your ideas! This group meets twice a month for 75 minutes (often on select Saturdays 10am ET / 7am PT). We'd love for you to join us! To be a part of this group or request information, join the business meeting on Zoom held the 3rd Thursdays. You can also contact us at the web address below.

Communications & Outreach Working Group Subcommittee:

The members of the CSPC respond to voicemails and emails from people seeking outreach related to sponsorship. This subcommittee is working on revising the auto-reply email, developing the annual sponsorship virtual workshops and expanding communication within the Fellowship. Join the committee or request more information at the web address below.



The CSPC Business meeting is held the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:00pm ET / 5:00pm CT / 3:00pm PT using Zoom video or teleconference. Zoom ID: 823 4603 7240 | Password: 247012

More Info you may also email: slaasponsorship@gmail.com

Find General S.L.A.A. Sponsorship Resources at https://slaafwsporg/tag/sponsor/

Subscribe to the Quarterly F.W.S. Newsletter



Augustine Fellowship 2411 NE Loop 410 Suite 122 San Antonio, TX 78217 Phone: 1-210-828-7900 Fax: 1-210-828-7922

FELLOWSHIP-WIDE SERVICES has a quarterly online newsletter.

Find out about new literature, new tools for recovery on the F.W.S. website, what happened at the Annual Business Meeting, what is going on with F.W.S. finances, and more. There are 4 issues plus a special ABM Edition, totaling 5 issues per year.

Subscribing is easy.

Text FWSNEWS to 42828

Or Visit https://slaafws.org/fwsnewsinfo



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DID YOU KNOW THAT THE FELLOWSHIP-WIDE SERVICES (F.W.S.) OFFICE...

...provides worldwide meeting information to newcomers, to members moving or traveling to other locations, as well as to other interested parties via the website, telephone, mail and email.

...maintains a listing of worldwide Groups, Intergroups, Groups, group contacts, meeting times and dates via the F.W.S. website. In addition keeps separate databases for Conference members, Committee members and <u>F.W.S.</u>
Newsletter subscribers.

...gives free information to potential newcomers as well as to professionals who may be interested in further information about S.L.A.A.

...provides/updates Group/Intergroup Starter Kits and assists new Groups in getting started.

...with the help of volunteers and committees publishes the <u>F.W.S. Newsletter</u> quarterly with a distribution list of more than 1,600 members worldwide. The <u>F.W.S. Newsletter</u> is distributed via email or at cost for hard copies plus postage to anyone that does not have access to email.

...provides a place for Groups and Intergroups to turn to for feedback and information on group related issues

...works with Intergroups, Groups and other S.L.A.A. "offices" to provide information to members and those seeking help.

...supports Conference Committees in their work such as helping provide prison outreach to correctional institutions, assisting with production of *the Journal* and creating new recovery products/tools and new literature.

...generates more than 7,000 invoices, publishes and ships nearly 70,000 pieces of S.L.A.A. literature and recovery tools a year, including over 21 pamphlets; booklets such as Triggers as a Resource, Anorexia, and a Companion to Chapter Four of the Basic Text; 8 *Journal focus* booklets; the S.L.A.A. Basic Text (in soft-cover, e-book and audio formats); a daily meditation reader); and a bimonthly magazine, *the Journal*, with approximately 120 print subscribers.

...responds to national and international media and the professional community inquiries via the Board Outreach Committee and the F.W.S. staff.

...sponsors the Annual Business Conference and Meeting (ABC/M). This involves securing a site, handling logistics, securing housing, food and audio/visual equipment, handling all aspects of pre_ and onsite registration, obtaining local volunteer help, running the auction, processing all monies, and attending to anything that may arise when preparing for the Conference.

...has to be maintained so that all of the above can happen. Employees and volunteer Board members handle all facets of the office operations including: purchasing of supplies, equipment and merchandise, production of merchandise, creating a budget and monitoring it, all accounting and tax functions, and adherence to government guidelines regarding administration of a non-profit organization.

...does all of the above solely to help fulfill the primary purpose as stated in Tradition Five, to carry the S.L.A.A. message to the sex and love addict who still suffers.

...is fully self-supporting according to Tradition Seven. The F.W.S. Office does not accept any contributions from outside sources. It relies entirely on contributions from Intergroups, Groups and their members to support its functioning as well as the sales of S.L.A.A. Conference-approved literature

If you have questions or would like more information on S.L.A.A.

- Call 210-828-7900
- Fax 210-828-7922
- Email: https://slaafws.org/contact
 The Augustine Fellowship
 2411 NE Loop 410, Ste 122
 San Antonio TX 78217

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm CT.

The F.W.S. Newsletter Page 34 December 2023 Issue

Guidelines and Deadlines for Submissions

The following guidelines are helpful when submitting service articles, reports and flyers to the **F.W.S. Newsletter**:

- The mission of the F.W.S. Newsletter is to publish items related to S.L.A.A. service and business, the Conference and the Conference Committees, the F.W.S. Office, and the Board of Trustees news; and, to share this information as widely as possible in order to keep members around the world up-to-date with the Fellowship.
- Make submissions in a .doc or .docx file, with the exception of flyers created for specific events or requests.
- Remember to maintain anonymity by using first name and last initial.
- Place periods between the initials in the fellowship name in written material that is made public: **S.L.A.A.**
- The newsletter is not a recovery-oriented publication per se and not to be confused with the *Journal*, which publishes articles of recovery.
- Use the following email address for submissions: https://slaafws.org/fwsnews-submit

Deadlines for Submissions are Sundays:

2024 February 11 – March Issue 2024 May 12 – June Issue 2024 August 11 – September Issue 2024 November 10 – December Issue

Please feel free to ask questions, make suggestions and become part of the international community of S.L.A.A. You can contact the editor at: https://slaafws.org/fwsnews-submit.