Recovering Addict Reflects on Sobriety and Bottom-lines

"Self-defined bottom-line" and "sobriety" may be two of the most difficult concepts in SLAA. When I first started coming to meetings, I listened closely and, after a while, asked old-timers to help me understand about bottom-lines and sobriety. The literature that I knew seemed to be skimpy in its help about this, and even the experience of local people who had been in the program for a while didn't give me the clarity I was looking for. And now its flipped and I am one of the old-timers, and two of the most frequently asked questions at our meetings are "What is a bottom-line" and "What is sobriety."

I wish I felt more confident about my answers. When I was first struggling with the concept of "bottom-line," I referred to the most frequent use of the term that I knew. In finance, to get to the bottom-line, one must determine if a business is profitable. I inferred that in SLAA, a bottom-line was the divider between whether I was moving toward sobriety (in the black) or moving toward the craziness and compulsiveness of my addiction (in the red). Activities that made me feel bad about myself identified my bottom-line. Sobriety was not engaging in these activities.

I would not have experienced sobriety without something like bottom-lines—creating a divide between the insanity of addiction and the hope of recovery. Since I am good at weaseling my way around boundaries or limitations that restrain or confine me, I needed to draw a clear line in my early recovery, defining "that beyond which I would not go." The work of self-defining bottom-lines is difficult. When I began in SLAA, I wanted someone to give me a clear answer as to what was acceptable and what wasn't—maybe so that I

(Continued on page 4)

The Gift of Service Work

I am 33 years old, a communications professional with a master's degree, and a type A personality with a passion for life and exciting experiences. I am also a sex and love addict. I came from a solidly middle class Catholic family with a stay-at-home mom and a teacher dad. Having been raised that my sole purpose and only value in life was to be a wife and a mother, my addiction took the form of extreme dependency on men for validation and approval—a reason to exist.

I waited until I was 18 and a freshman in college to have sex. A popular senior in the communications school took an interest in me. It was intoxicating. Even after finding out that his roommate was more than just a "gal pal," I chose him as my first lover.

(Continued on page 3)

Reflections on an Anniversary

Yesterday, I celebrated my twelfth year of sobriety in S.L.A.A. Every anniversary brings with it an intense experience of humility, gratitude and joy. And, every anniversary stirs reflections of where I was, where I am, and just how I came to be happy, joyous and free...one day at a time.

Many things stand out in my process of getting sober and staying sober, and then integrating my new behaviors, attitudes and priorities into my new life. There are many answers to "how did you do it?" I used as many tools and resources as I could find.

(Continued on page 7)
From the Editor...

With this issue, we as a fellowship approach the celebration of our 25th Anniversary as a group. Those of us on this committee, the Board of Trustees, and the entire Conference, hope we have a chance to meet you in Los Angeles in July. I personally hope to make new acquaintances with both those who have been “trudging this happy road” for a while, and those that are new to the recovery path. These are exciting times for all of us, both continually making that “decision” to let go, and affirming our “desire” to continue.

As this year’s Newsletter Committee completes its commitment to this publication, I reflect and hope that the result we have provided to the fellowship has been both valuable and exciting. I have been very pleased with the efforts and results of those who have participated. If something that has, or has not, appeared in this product inspires you, perhaps you will be moved to write something for future editions as well as the Conference Newsletter and the Journal. It really is you who makes this work.

Yours in Service, Rob K., Editor

RESULTS FROM THE SPECIAL ABC/M RAFFLE!

In an effort to encourage lone groups and Intergroups to send delegates to the Annual Business Conference/Meeting in Oceanside, California 7/10-13/01, FWS held a special raffle.

All Delegate Sign-Up Forms that were received at FWS by 3/31/01 were entered into a drawing to receive free registration, housing/food (on-site) at the ABM, and free Recovery Convention Registration!

Depending on the size of the Intergroup, whether the group had been represented in the past 5 years or submitted registration and payment with the form, each entrant could earn numerous tickets... **There were 18 entrants:**

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The following were the winners:
**WINNER:** Tampa Bay Intergroup
1st runner up: Palm Beach County Intergroup
2nd runner up: Greater NY Intergroup

CONGRATULATIONS!!!
We only had sex the one time. Next I found a married guy who was 10 years older. That lasted two years until he got divorced and sought therapy. I was suicidal when he left me. After weathering that, I had two more "relationships" and a slew of brief romances and one night stands, bringing my total of lovers to 11. As I got closer to completing my undergraduate degree, I began to panic that I would never find a husband.

I was 23. Four months later I met a man with a good job, Catholic (in name) who was very good looking. Within a week, and before our first official date, I decided I was going to marry this man, and three years later at a fairy-tale wedding I did. He was a high functioning alcoholic, emotionally shutdown and not interested in sex. More importantly he was my father. After a very painful two and a half years, I sought comfort in my pattern of using men’s attention to “fix” me, and I began an affair with a raging sex addict and alcoholic six years younger than I was. I was ashamed of my behavior and couldn’t stand myself, but I couldn’t stop. My marriage lasted another six months and the affair fizzled out two months after that. The pain of doing something so far outside my value system led me to SLAA. I knew my reliance on men for my self-esteem, for the right to draw air, was out of control and I had to get help. Withdrawal from men and relationships was one of the hardest things I have ever endured.

Today, my value as a human being comes from the fact that God gave me life. I no longer look to men to define who I am. I know who I am. I have spent enough time by myself to discover the "me" that got lost so long ago. I actively work on my relationship with myself, and my relationship with God. Thanks to the 12 Steps of SLAA, I am making better choices about relationships. After almost four years in the program, I am no longer rushing into sexual/romantic situations to fill a void or escape from pain. I am healthier and the men I attract are healthier. I am single and have no children and that’s just fine. I would like to marry and raise a family one day, but now it’s a preference and not an obsession. My life is full as it is, and getting fuller every day!

SLAA meetings, working the Steps of the program with a sponsor, concentrating on my relationship with myself and with my Higher Power and giving back through service work has led me to this full life—a life of sobriety, a life of sanity. My work with my sponsees has been more rewarding than I could have ever imagined. I often thank them for the privilege of allowing me to be part of their lives as it heals me in the process. After getting involved with my local Intergroup, I found continuing service rewards. While challenging at times, helping to plan major events such as workshops and retreats gave me an opportunity to learn to use my voice, face conflict, and allow others to have differing opinions from mine all in an appropriate manner. Learning how to have respectful, healthy relationships has been a great gift of service from my work with SLAA. Now I am even active on the national/international level as an ABM delegate from my area and a conference committee chair. I have found that service at every level has helped me learn to trust and love myself, get support from and feel compassion for others, and remove my need to judge everyone and everything — which I did most harshly to myself — all of which have benefited my sobriety.

I am, and will forever be grateful for all of my experiences in SLAA as each Step has led me closer to my Higher Power and the health I have found in sobriety.

Respectfully submitted by
RB, Houston, TX

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**INTRODUCING..**

Our new SLAA Literature & Merchandise Catalog!
New Audio Tapes! The new Pocket Tool Kit!
A listing of all the literature we have that has been translated to Spanish, Portuguese, and French, in it’s respective language! and more!

**Please see new catalog enclosed in the June, 2001 bulk mailing featuring new items available for sale!**
I loved to let myself slip into those feelings of revelry mixed with regret when I used old songs to bring up emotions associated with previous "highs" or drove around on spring evenings with the car windows down feeling "alive." As I began to declare these activities off-limits because they led to mood changes, I was moving from abstinence to sobriety. No longer did I equate the two.

I now think of sobriety as being in touch with my serene self. When I am in a place of calm, of peacefulness, I truly am sober. Sometimes it helps me to compare my sex and love addiction to that of an alcoholic. I had stopped "drinking" (doing those things that were on my bottom-line list) but I still turned for pleasure or release to things like emotional abandonment, rage, or fantasy. I realized that just as an alcoholic could stop drinking but turn to other methods for escape, so could sex and love addicts, and I was doing just that.

So about a year ago, I decided to develop a new bottom-line, based not on those negative actions that I had avoided for 8 years, but instead on the mental state that separated dealing with issues rather than running from them. I included masturbation as the most tangible indicator of these new bottom-lines.

I would truly like to report that I have been successful in achieving complete success with this new standard—but I haven't. I knew when I set these new thresholds that I was likely to fail. But, to be perfectly honest, that was part of the reason I did it.

I was at the point that my old bottom-lines were "easy." In the ensuing years since I started coming to SLAA meetings, I had increased my understanding of myself, strengthened my ties to the Fellowship, and most of all, deepened my contact with my Higher Power. I was ready to take on a new challenge. I didn't expect to succeed initially, but I wasn't at a crisis as when I came into the program. I am not succeeding, perfectly. And I'll mention one more thing, too. It hurt me to not be able to accept another year chip when my old annual sobriety date rolled around last September. I have lived a life that measures success in tangible ways, and seeks recognition from others. The chips and the recognition that they afforded me had been real motivators. However, I gave these up. It was a real loss, but it was a move to place more emphasis on my relationship with my Higher Power, and less on other people's approval.

I have faced challenges with these new bottom-lines, and I have not made steady progress. I'm not currently working my program as purposefully as I was several months ago. However, I recognize that as my life continues, I will return to that more intense program because I have experienced the benefits of sobriety, and I truly desire the contact with my Higher Power that my early morning journaling and meditation gave me.

The experience of serenity that I have known is what I was searching to find through all of those old "acting out" behaviors. I didn't know how to get to that place—if in fact, I didn't know that I was looking for something. In retrospect, I can see the common elements in my search for "something else," but as I was walking through those experiences, agitation was all that I felt.

At this point in my recovery, I am trying to take a more forgiving approach to myself—to observe feelings that cause me to seek an escape, and not to harshly judge myself if I let them influence me. I am making progress, realizing extended periods of peace. The ability to forgive myself, to be more relaxed and less judgmental about myself, allows me to be less judgmental of others. I am recognizing the benefits of sobriety as I seek to keep the concept of "bottom-line" a meaningful tool in my progressing recovery.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Sam M.
STEP THREE

"Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood God."

In 1990 my marriage was in tatters. A wise psychologist/marriage counselor told me to read Out of the Shadows and told me how to find an SLAA meeting. I soon found a sponsor, and began working the Steps. I had a real problem with Step 3. What I lacked then was trust in God.

I wrongly envisioned God only as a judgmental old man in the sky. I shared my perceptions with a friend. He smiled and said, "Well, I believe God created me in his image. So the God I pray to is good natured, short, and slightly overweight." This and other insights guided me to a view of a loving, caring God who wanted me to be a healthy and happy person. I kept working the Steps.

By 1991 I was at the point of making amends to family members. I wanted to tell my children that I alone was responsible for the troubled family life they had experienced, and that my sad history of sexual misbehavior ended with the happy prospect of recovery through SLAA.

I began with a trip to Belgium to see my oldest child, a career military officer. I told my story, and received the gifts of his love and encouragement.

We decided to go to Paris. I had never been there before. The first night there, alone in my hotel room, the full nudity on French TV was an instant trigger. My recovery went into sudden reverse. I was crushed. What had been going so well had suddenly gone all wrong. I felt helpless. I awoke the next morning thinking, "I need to talk to God about this. I need a place to pray." I called the desk clerk.

He said there was a church opposite the hotel, just across the plaza.

I went directly to the church and found a quiet place at a side altar. For the first time I asked not for forgiveness but for recovery. A great sense of peace came over me. I added a prayer for our entire fellowship, and left. As I walked back across the plaza toward the hotel I thought, "I wonder what church I was in." I looked back for a name on the church. It was Saint Augustine. My ten years of sobriety began that day in May, 1991. My journey along the recovery road was not an easy ride. I hit my share of speed bumps and potholes. I realized that I needed to revisit Step 3.

In 1994 I experienced a powerful guided meditation centered on God's healing of a child. I cried. I felt God's healing power. It was a high point in my life. My daily prayers are important to me, I believe God hears all my prayers. I don't have a favorite. I make up whatever describes my needs. Here are two examples: "God, get me to recovery. Please treat me like a sick, tired and cranky child: pick me up, carry me, and wake me when we get there."

"God, get me to recovery. Please treat me like a sick, tired and cranky child: pick me up, carry me, and wake me when we get there."

I've finally found the trust in God that I so badly needed.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Dave K.

!!!!!!!R E M I N D E R!!!!!!!

EFFECTIVE 06/01/01

Due to the United States Postal Service postage increase, we have slightly raised our shipping/handling charges AND the Journal subscription prices. We have updated our shipping charges in our new catalog. We will honor current prices until 6/1/01. Thank you in advance for your understanding.
In following, recognize some difficulties:

I don't have the standard of expectations of people who are in other groups.

People who don't believe in a Higher Power

People who don't believe in God

So I'm just following the path that I'm on

God's will is a good exercise to share with others.

I hope these questions will open up discussions with you and your group.

12. When I was a special interest meeting at a national conference, I had some interesting people who had never heard me speak. I asked them to do their best to be open to new ideas and to expand their horizons. When I was done, I asked them if they would do that.

13. When I was in the research lab, I looked at the world of AA and wondered how they did it. What was the process of AA? If they followed the process, how did they do it? How did they reach the conclusions they reached? How did the process work? How did they reach the conclusions they reached? How did the process work?

14. When I was in the research lab, I looked at the world of AA and wondered how they did it. What was the process of AA? If they followed the process, how did they do it? How did they reach the conclusions they reached? How did the process work? How did they reach the conclusions they reached? How did the process work?
In this article, I’d like to focus on just one: special events. Sobriety gave me the gift of redefining “special events”. I’m sure you understand. For these sober fellowship activities, I am deeply grateful. These events and activities revealed treasures that were unique in my recovery process. I speak of spaghetti dinner-speaker meetings, sober holiday and Halloween parties, family-of-choice Thanksgiving gatherings, Fellowship “movie nights” and my all-time favorites, S.L.A.A. Round-Ups and Annual Conventions. I have been blessed to have attended ten Florida Round-Ups and two Annual Conventions. It wasn’t always an easy financial choice, and it was a scary emotional risk, as well. My first sponsor hammered me with the idea of using all the resources available for my recovery. I went. I was amazed (my Higher Power amazes me a lot).

I was awed by the power of such collective recovery. I had an incredible respect for the people I came to know. Each person, so unique and so much like me at the same time. I met people, even newcomers, that I saw as strong and worthy (even though they were still scared and self-doubting). They were growing spiritually and were courageous in choosing recovery on a daily basis. They taught me, to see myself in the same way.

The power of Spirit, recovery and fellowship is a wonderful and sometimes overwhelming experience. The S.L.A.A. motto, “You Are Not Alone” takes on a whole new level of meaning at special events. I couldn’t have gotten sober and stayed sober alone.

Think of the best meeting you’ve been to recently. Now multiply that experience by ten or twenty or a hundred. Whatever that meeting gave you, and more, is available at special events. At least, that’s my experience...over and over again.

When I came into S.L.A.A., every relationship in my life was codependent, manipulative, needy and superficial. At special events, I got to know people, hold sober conversations and develop healthy friendships. I experienced bonding and emotional closeness that was new and frightening. It was a critical piece in my life of recovery. On that foundation, I have built my sober life which is filled with a whole range of wonderful and sober relationships – family, friends, co-workers, neighbors.

There have been times at events, when I’ve had an emotional catharsis or an “aha” insight or inspiration. On several occasions, I had a spiritual experience that took me to a new level of growth and understanding. I’ve learned not to expect such high points, but to accept them when they come as divine gifts of recovery.

Sometimes I left special activities drained or overwhelmed, but my investment had immeasurable returns. These occasions gave me increased strength and hope. I can only imagine they do the same for others. I still go to regular meetings and read the S.L.A.A. Basic Text from time to time. I speak with my sponsor almost once a week. I’ve given service to S.L.A.A. in many ways over the years (the benefits of giving service is another article). There are many ways I could continue to give back what the program has given to me. Today, I choose to give my service in the planning of the Florida Round-Ups. The committee members meet monthly, all year round. The planning meetings feed and support me, but even more importantly, I am assured of receiving the treasures of upcoming special events. And I am making those gifts available to others.

For those who haven’t attended an area Round-Up or an S.L.A.A. Annual Convention, I encourage you to do whatever it takes to try one. I trust it will only enhance your recovery, knowing that your experience will be different than mine. But it is the power of a collective and diverse recovery process of which I have been speaking.

I hope these words of my hope, strength and experience have added something positive to your day. And, just maybe, we’ll meet at the Convention in Los Angeles or the Florida Round-Up in September.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Cheryl D.
New & Disbanded Meetings
3/1/01-4/30/01

New Meetings
Wendepunkt, Germany Thu Night “Turning Point”
Marseille, France Sat Morning
Australia Fri Night “Getting Current”
Vero Beach, FL Sun Night “Bottom-Liners”
Ventura, CA Tue Night “Getting Current”

Disbanded Meetings
Barrington, IL Sun Night
Cambridge, MA Tue Night “Experience Strength & Hope”
Port Hueneme, CA Sun Afternoon Women’s
Bloomington, IN Tue “Women & Relationships”
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic Fri/Sat Night Freedom
Halifax, Canada Wed Night “Pioneers”

Fellowship-Wide Services
THANKS YOU!

March 2001 Bulk Mailing Volunteers:
Ted T., Roxbury, MA
Bob R., Smithfield, RI
Doreen A., Smithfield, RI
Ellen S., Brookline, MA
Jeff B., Acton, MA
Ron P., Worcester, MA
Oliver T., Worcester, MA
Eileen, Brighton, MA
Stuart August, Sharon, MA
Denise DePina, Dorchester, MA

Walk-In Volunteers:
Frank M., Foxboro, MA
Antonio Nunes, Dorchester, MA

FWS would not have been able to complete the work needed to be done without the service and enthusiasm of these volunteers.

Thank You for your support!
As a result of our current shortage in staff, we have many different volunteer opportunities available!

If ANYONE is interested in volunteering for future bulk mailings or if you would like to give us a hand in the office at any time, please contact Daniela, Jenny or Nancy at (781) 255-8825 or E-mail us at slaafws@aol.com!

FWS News Corner

Job Opening:
Are you looking for a job? Do you want to share your recovery with addicts who still suffer and get paid for it? The FWS office is seeking a person to fill a 16-hour a week Outreach Coordinator position.

Requirements:
• Must be able to work at the FWS office in Norwood, MA

Responsibilities include:
• responding to Email, telephone and postal inquiries about SLAA and meetings,
• shipping SLAA materials and merchandise.

Ideal Candidate:
• Recovering person, familiar with the tools and steps of the program
• Understanding of the 12 Traditions
• MS Word, Excel, and Access experience preferable
• Reliable, detail-oriented, team player w/ sense of humor
• Background/experience in marketing, sales and outreach useful

Wish List
Below is a list of items needed by the FWS office. If you (or your group) are interested in contributing any of these items, please contact us! We are a tax-deductible organization. Thank You.

• Filing cabinets
• HP Compatible scanner
• Book cases to store literature and computer manuals
• Toaster oven
"Annual World Wide Sponsorship Day"
August 4, 2001

Groups worldwide are asked to participate in a "Sponsorship Workshops Day" on
August 4, 2001

We are asking the Fellowship-at-large to participate in the brainstorm process and
hold a Sponsorship Workshops Day!

We hope that the ideas that are generated by these Sponsorship Workshops would be a contribution
to the beginnings of a "Working the S.L.A.A. Steps Workbook."

Some Possible Examples:
What is important to you when you Sponsor?
How do you Sponsor?
How do you choose a Sponsor?

The compiled results of your Workshops are asked to be sent to the Conference Sponsorship Committee
at this email address:
SponsorshipComm@slaaflows.org

or send hard copies to:
The Conference Sponsorship Committee
c/o FWS, P.O. Box 338, Norwood, MA
02062-0338

Thank you for participating!!

ARE YOU REGISTERED FOR THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY RECOVERY CONVENTION YET?
The Los Angeles Intergroup has been working hard at creating a fabulous international recovery convention to celebrate SLAA’s 25th year and wants you to be there!!!

For more information or to register:
Convention_2001@slaaflows.org 818/377-5068

DON’T BE LEFT OUT OF THIS EXCITING EVENT!

REMINDER!
SLAA Annual Business Conference/Meeting (ABC/M)
July 10-13, 2001
Oceanside, California USA

Will your group be represented in the decision of items such as:
• Ways to focus on the 12 Steps fellowship-wide
• A separate version of the 12 Steps for Anorectics
• Adding a “service statement” to our Preamble
• And more?

Don’t forget to sign up and register your group/intergroup’s Delegate by completing the registration forms from the packets distributed with the January and March 2001 Newsletters!

ANNOUNCING THE 2001 FLORIDA ROUND-UP!
The Tampa Bay Intergroup will be holding their annual Round-Up on September 29, 2001 at the Tampa Ramada Westshore. To receive updated information about the 2001 Round-Up and a registration form, please visit http://Florida.Roundup.listbot.com/.

Once you have submitted your E-mail address, you will receive a confirmation message.

Also check out the Tampa Bay Intergroup website at www.tampaslaa.com or you can call (727) 397-0130.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!
Board of Trustees (BOT) Meeting Minutes Summary: The following is a summary of the 1/13/01, 3/3/01, and 3/10/01 BOT meetings. There was a lot of discussion regarding the cover of the special 25th anniversary edition of the Basic Text and FWS processes. Exciting decisions were made to add Intergroup information to the FWS web page, to print an anonymous version of the Basic Text and to correct some of the errors that have occurred in the SLAA 12 Traditions.

January 13, 2001
➢ The BOT revisited the question as to whether we should allow audiotape material on the Internet. The discussion surrounded the fact that we were concerned with control of what happened to that material once it was on the Internet, but thought that it may be something we would want to do on the FWS website in terms of allowing people to hear portions of the tapes in order to market it better. It was ultimately decided that FWS would not give permission to the person requesting to audio stream our materials on their website and think about whether we want to pursue this idea for our own use later on.
➢ A motion was made to approve the General Manager evaluation process created by the Human Resources Committee and after long discussion the motion was defeated. The general disagreement about the process was around whether to include the numeric ratings from non-BOT members such as employees and Conference members or just comments. There were arguments for both sides, but in the end it was decided that the process for this year would be at the GM’s supervisor discretion.
➢ The BOT revisited the recommendation from the HRC for a 5th member appointment. There was no agreement on the recommendation and it was recognized that the item was not resolved but was completed for the moment.
➢ A motion was made and passed make the SLAA literature text of Traditions 3 and 11 look like the April 17, 1999 Bylaws. Specifically, Tradition 3: the correct word is “gathered” not “gathering”; and Tradition 11: the correct phrase is “based on attraction rather than promotion” not “based on attraction rather than on promotion.” All literature printed from then on in would be updated with the correct version (if there is a discrepancy.)

March 3, 2001
➢ A motion was made to change the Employee Handbook, Item 718 entitled “Problem Resolution” on pages 63-64 so that “HRC” would replace “OOC” in items 4 and 5 and item 6 would read, “The HRC reviews and considers the problem. The HRC then makes a recommendation to the GM and/or the BOT as the HRC deems appropriate.” After discussion the BOT asked the HRC to clarify some questions that came up. The item would remain on the agenda as a priority item.
➢ Another motion was made to make available the space and opportunity to list contact information on the official SLAA web page as requested, and only as requested, by SLAA groups and Intergroups. Respecting the tradition of anonymity, no group or intergroup will be listed unless a request from that group is received. Only information specifically requested will be published. The Conference Internet Committee would do the design, test and oversight of this web tool. The consensus was that there were a lot of issues around including “groups” in this decision so the motion was amended to just focus upon “Intergroups.” The motion passed unanimously. The issue of adding “groups” to the web page would be revisited after the CIC has had some time to test the Intergroup information on the web page.
➢ The BOT agreed to have an electronic version of our Basic Text created.
➢ A motion to print a more anonymous version of the Basic Text with an “embossed” cover in the current color scheme passed unanimously.
➢ Another motion to print a special anniversary edition of the Basic Text in hard cover was also passed.
➢ After long discussion about what the cover of the special anniversary edition Basic Text would look like, it was decided to hold a special meeting in order to address 3 priority issues that could not wait for the next scheduled meeting (5/5/01): 1) the anniversary edition cover and a Traditions motion; 2) a motion to change the election bylaw; and 3) to review the GM’s evaluation and salary recommendation. The special meeting was scheduled for 3/10/01.

March 10, 2001
➢ The BOT discussed the GM’s evaluation and recommendation from the GM’s supervisor for a salary increase.
➢ The motion to amend the election bylaws regarding when BOT terms begin and end was tabled due to the fact that an alternate recommendation was submitted and needed more time to be discussed.
➢ A motion was made by the BS&TC and later approved by the Board to approve the following version of the Traditions as the correct version. (Over time several errors have been incorporated when reproduced and the BS&TC traced what the correct version should be.)
1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon S.L.A.A. unity.
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.
3. The only requirement for S.L.A.A. membership is a desire to stop living out a pattern of sex and love

(Continued on page 12)
Contributions for March - April 2001

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**Total Contributions:** $25,932.16
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.

4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or S.L.A.A. as a whole.
5. Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the sex and love addict who still suffers.
6. An S.L.A.A. group or S.L.A.A. as a whole ought never endorse, finance, or lend the S.L.A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, or prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

7. Every S.L.A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
8. S.L.A.A. should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
9. S.L.A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
10. S.L.A.A. has no opinion on outside issues; hence the S.L.A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, TV, film, and other public media. We need guard with special care the anonymity of all fellow S.L.A.A. members.
12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

After another long discussion as to who should make the decision as to what the cover of the special anniversary Basic Text should look like, the BOT voted to turn the decision over to the GM as a part of her duties.

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