



Fellowship-Wide Services Newsletter

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October 2008

Welcome to the Fall issue of the online Fellowship-Wide Services Newsletter!

PLEASE TAKE A COPY TO YOUR MEETING!

We would really, really love it if you could share this newsletter far and wide and encourage others to subscribe for free.

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A REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

October 15, 2008

“The Crisis” at F.W.S. is over: we’ve balanced our budget, paid off our debt, and just had a wonderful Annual Business Meeting. But the crisis of Sex and Love Addiction in our world is not over. We have a solution to the nightmare of addiction, but what are we doing to share that solution with the thousands, the millions, of suffering addicts who don’t even have a name for their problem? Not enough. We are not doing enough. Let me share a vision of what could be.

We know that the essence of Twelve Step recovery is one addict working with another. There is no recovery otherwise. That work happens at S.L.A.A. meetings. Newcomers arrive and are warmly greeted by those who have found the solution. They are taken out for coffee or dinner after the meeting and the solution is presented to them out of the experience of sober members. Phone numbers are exchanged and immediately the newcomers are in contact with recovering S.L.A.A. members who work with them directly, and enthusiastically, to guide them through the Steps and into a new way of life. That’s the way it works at your meetings, isn’t it? Or is it?

We also know, from the AA Big Book, that “nothing will so much insure immunity from [acting out] as intensive work with other [sex and love addicts]. It works when other activities fail.” To stay sober ourselves it is mandatory that we actively carry this solution to others who have not yet found it. Through service at our Intergroups, we go into treatment centers and prisons to set up meetings and deliver literature, we contact therapists, doctors, clergy-people, and members of the criminal justice system to inform them about what S.L.A.A. is and how to find our meetings. We answer calls to our local hotlines and spend valuable time helping newcomers find their way to their first meeting. And once they arrive, we put aside our personal anxieties for the space of an evening and we devote ourselves to carrying this message so that we can be sure that we ourselves will be sober at bedtime. That’s the way you work this program, isn’t it? Or is it?

The fact of the matter is that almost all of the hard work necessary to carry our message of recovery to the addict who still suffers must be done by you, at your meetings, and through your Intergroup. In order to stay sober yourself, and in order to share this life-giving program with others, you must spend your valuable time working with newcomers at meetings and between meetings, and volunteering through your Intergroup to spread awareness of S.L.A.A. through an active local Public Information campaign. There are some in our Fellowship who understand this, and who are doing this indispensable service work at various levels. But I’m going to be blunt: there aren’t enough of them. Individual members of S.L.A.A. need to do more if we are to share with others what we have each been freely given. More sponsorship. More 12th Step calls. More outreach and Public Information at the Intergroup level. More new meetings. More new Intergroups. And the beauty of it is, everyone who takes up this work will find themselves rewarded a hundred-fold in their own spiritual life. That is what our program promises.

So where in the heck does Fellowship-Wide Services fit into this vision? The answer was provided for us more than fifty years ago by Bill Wilson, the founder of Alcoholics Anonymous, from whence we take our inspiration. In Chapter One of the Twelve Concepts for World Service Bill writes:

[The General Service Board (equivalent then to our F.W.S. now)] was designed to inaugurate and maintain *all of those special services for A.A. as a whole that could not well be performed by single groups or areas*. We envisioned the writing of a uniform A.A. literature, the development of a sound public relations policy, and a means of handling the large numbers of pleas for help that might follow in the wake of national and international publicity. We thought in terms of aiding new groups to form and of furnishing them with counsel based upon the experience of the older and already successful groups. We thought there would be a need for a monthly magazine and also for translations of our literature into other languages.

Twelve Concepts for World Service, pg 6.
Emphasis added.

Let me distill this into a numbered list. **F.W.S. is designed to do for groups and Intergroups what they cannot do for themselves:**

1. Write a uniform S.L.A.A. literature.
2. Develop a sound public relations policy.
3. Develop a means of handling a large number of pleas for help.
4. Help new groups to form.
5. Furnish groups with counsel based on the experience of other groups.
6. Publish a monthly magazine.
7. Translate literature into other languages.

My vision for F.W.S. is very simply that we complete these seven tasks. Here is what we are doing, and where I believe we can go with each of these tasks:

1. **Literature:** At the recent Annual Business Meeting, the F.W.S. Conference unanimously approved the idea of hiring professional writers and/or editors to assist us in generating excellent new S.L.A.A. literature. Guided by decades of successful experience in A.A. and other 12 Step Fellowships our intention is to base our literature on the written contributions of the entire Fellowship, woven together into a whole by professional writers and/or editors, hopefully hired from within the Fellowship. Our next step is to develop and then execute a plan to fund such literature. One possibility is that the revenue from one successful piece of new literature will be used to fund the development of the next. A lot of work has been done using this new (to us) method on a new book with the working title of "The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of S.L.A.A." There are many, many other literature projects that can be completed in the same way in the future. One extremely important priority is to complete a pamphlet that addresses the challenges of members who identify themselves as being within a minority group within the fellowship. Beyond that, the sky is the limit.
2. **Public relations:** Media attention is a tricky business for us. But there is an enormous amount we can do to spread awareness of our Fellowship without going on daytime television. We need to get the word out at the local level, which means communicating with professionals, going into facilities of various kinds, and using local-level media. This work can only be done at the Intergroup level, but Intergroups need a strategy that works, and that strategy needs to be hammered out at the F.W.S. level. The Conference Public Information Committee and the Conference Prison Outreach Committee are currently working, in conjunction with the Board of Trustees, to develop toolkits that will make it easy for Intergroups to implement effective local outreach programs. These kits will layout a comprehensive plan and provide all the tools needed for successful implementation, and F.W.S. will provide the coaching, encouragement, and guidance necessary for each Intergroup to get off the ground with local outreach. Certainly, our starting point will include gathering the experience of successful Intergroups within the fellowship.
3. **Handling pleas for help:** At the moment we are stuck in an old rut in which pleas for help come over the telephone and we don't have the resources to respond. We are going to change that. Rather than relying on the telephone we are working to turn the F.W.S. website into a dramatically more powerful tool for recovery. The Conference Internet Committee and the Board Public Relations Committee are collaborating to develop new content for the website that will give addicts the information and encouragement they need to start on the road of recovery, whether they are in an area with S.L.A.A. meetings, or in an area with no S.L.A.A. meetings. The website will include tools and support for getting sober without meetings, and for starting meetings in new areas. We expect these changes to occur over the next one to three years and then to continue as needed. This year, we are piloting a new website content oversight process such that critical information can appear in timely way and at the same time be well reviewed by a representative group conscience process. There will always be a role for the telephone, but that role is at the level of the Intergroup or lone-group which maintains a local hotline and responds with one-on-one phone contact.

4. **Helping new groups to form:** As mentioned, we are planning to provide new online tools and support for people starting new groups. These tools will include suggestions and guidelines, stories from other addicts' experience, and potentially an online forum for people starting new groups. But of course such people need direct contact as well. This is where F.W.S. staff support is really critical. Currently, increased staff is the number one budget priority at F.W.S. and we expect to make good on that priority with a modest increase in staffing within the next few months. If our revenue increases we will prioritize further hiring, toward a fully staffed office, capable of fully supporting those who wish to start new meetings.
5. **Furnishing groups with counsel:** Here again, staff support is critical. A.A. employs 11 recovering alcoholics with extensive service experience for the explicit purpose of responding to calls, letters, and emails requesting guidance on the whole array of issues confronted by groups and Intergroups. We need a recovering Sex and Love Addict with service experience in our F.W.S. office, and hiring such a person will be a spending priority if our revenue increases. In the meantime, we will put as much of the experience, strength, and hope of successful groups on the F.W.S. website as possible.
6. **Monthly magazine:** Our monthly magazine, the *Journal*, has not fulfilled its potential yet. But that is going to change. In the past six months the Conference Journal Committee (CJC) has made amazing progress at turning the *Journal* around. The look, the content, and the timely distribution of the *Journal* have improved dramatically in a very short time. Over the next few months, in collaboration with the F.W.S. Staff and the Board of Trustees, the CJC is going to put a full-court press on increasing subscriptions to the *Journal*. This will be easy work, because when people see the improvements in our monthly magazine they will subscribe in droves. And the *Journal* will become the powerful tool for personal recovery and group discussion that S.L.A.A. deserves.
7. **Translating literature:** Here F.W.S. has really dropped the ball. I think it would be a profound surprise to most North Americans to know how rapidly S.L.A.A. is growing in other parts of the world. Our literature is needed in other languages and we are not doing enough to facilitate that process. In many cases volunteers have begun, or even completed work on translations of the S.L.A.A. Basic Text or of our pamphlets, and F.W.S. is not responding to these efforts with the necessary process of verifying the translations and dealing with issues of international copyright and licensing (both of which take considerable monetary resources). But even when we have addressed the needs of these volunteer translation efforts, it will not be enough, because addicts around the world cannot wait for volunteers. We need to develop a system where we can cover the up-front expense of one translation, and then have the proceeds from the sales of that translation go towards the next translation. The Board of Trustees and the F.W.S. Conference will be addressing the need for such a system in the coming year, and we will develop a comprehensive process for timely translation into as many languages as the recovering addicts of the world require.

So go to your meetings, work the Steps with a sponsor so you can have the spiritual awakening promised in Step Twelve, work with newcomers, be a sponsor, do service at your meetings, join your Intergroup, or start one if there isn't one, do all the local public-information work you can, and join with F.W.S., the Board of Trustees, and the F.W.S. Conference on this cherished mission to spread our message to every sex and love addict who still suffers wherever she or he may be.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMITTEE REPORTS**Board Finance and Operating Committee**

Chair's Report – Liz D.

I have just been elected the Chair of the Board Finance and Operating Committee as of last Thursday and today was elected to be the supervisor of the General Manager at the F.W.S. office. And, our newsletter is going to press. So, I write with just a short report today to introduce myself and to ask that you look in the next issue for more from me around what is happening this year with the Board Finance and Operating Committee.

In my next report, I look forward to giving you more details on our analysis of the successes and challenges of this past year (our fiscal year ended September 30, 2008) and also our vision to move forward this year.

Yours in service,

Liz D.

BGNC Report for the F.W.S. Newsletter

The Board Governance & Nominating Committee (BGNC) is responsible for a number of projects/activities that include but are not limited to:

1. Candidate Recruitment for the Board of Trustees (BOT) - We are working on systematization of this process as well as reviewing the qualifications and qualities that are essential to be a trustee or a non-board member of a board committee.
2. Concepts Task Force (started Mar08)-This task force is on the verge of making actionable recommendations to the BGNC and BOT. In addition, a suggested Timeline for Implementation for the Fellowship as a whole to prepare for the adaptation and adoption of the A.A. 12 Concepts of World Service will be provided for feedback.
3. BOT Call Squad (started Aug06)-This is the 3rd year of this invaluable project to communicate with over 50 Intergroups on a personal basis (phone and email) the latest developments of the FWS and BOT. This year the Conference Intergroup Communications Committee (CICC) and BGNC have formed a CICC-BOT Call Squad Task Force to systematize and improve communications with Intergroups.
4. Updating Board of Trustees Documentation-Since the office move and computer crash in 2006 as well as the financial and operational crises that the BOT has had to contend with for a few years there has not been a formal updating of BOT documents including the BOT Manual, Motions Index and minutes archive. This is one of the priority projects for the BGNC this year.

The members of the BGNC:

1. Dan A., BOT Chair and member-Berkeley, CA
2. Kim B., non-BOT member-Boston, MA
3. Rita H., BOT member-Montreal, QC

The first BGNC call was scheduled for Monday evening August 25th. This BOT committee normally meets twice a month. Please feel free to contact the BGNC chair if you have questions; or, comments that can help serve the fellowship as a whole better.

In the spirit of service
Rita H., chair BGNC

BPRC Report

The Board Public Relations Committee (BPRC) is comprised of Trustees Stephen S., Pittsburgh, chair, Chris D., San Diego, and Bob F., Omaha, along with non-Trustees, Deb W., Cleveland, Steve S., Philadelphia, and Beth S., Johnstown, webmaster. This year promises to be a busy one for the BPRC as we continue to expand and refine our efforts to carry the message through the use of the F.W.S. website. This past year our website has taken on a new, less sterile look, Intergroup information is current, and Lone Groups were contacted and listed on the web for the first time ever. The online store has begun to function really well, its inventory has been expanded greatly (check out all the new CDs available) and the appointment of a new webmaster allowed us to post current events and meeting information whenever they are supplied to the webmaster or F.W.S.. Keep that information coming!

Our first meeting of the new ABC/M year took place in mid August. In addition to the rudimentary business of setting meeting schedules and the like, our webmaster introduced her wish to create a master database for the Fellowship. Intergroup information would be indexed by country, state/province, even zip code. Intergroups would update their own information and F.W.S. could also make updates. The database would be fully searchable, sortable, and printable. F.W.S. could also keep all the internal contact records like Conference delegates or private Intergroup contacts in a separate password-protected area. We look forward to exploring the possibility of implementing such a great tool.

One large, ongoing task of the BPRC includes the publication of the F.W.S. News. Former editor and BOT alum, Deb W. has graciously agreed to take on the role of its editor-in-chief. Thanks Deb! If you have information or articles to print in the F.W.S. News, please contact Deb at fwsnews@slaafws.org.

At this year's ABC/M there was great enthusiasm on the part of the Conference about using the F.W.S. website more proactively to serve not only the membership but also those who are looking to us for help. There is new web content being developed by several Conference and BOT committees. The Web Task Force of the BPRC is working with the Conference Internet Committee to develop a protocol for reviewing the new content of our website (as well as the existing content, as needed) to ensure that it is consistent with the message of S.L.A.A. This protocol will allow us to have control over the content without having to subject it to the lengthy process of Conference approval, thereby allowing us to change content quickly on the site. New content that is ready for review includes "How to get sober where there are no meetings." We are very excited about using the F.W.S. website more effectively to reach those who need our help the most.

In service,
Stephen S., BPRC Chair

**The Augustine Fellowship,
Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous,
Fellowship-Wide Services, Inc.**



BOARD OF TRUSTEES' TELECONFERENCE MEETING OFFICIAL MINUTES
August 2, 2008 7:30 am PACIFIC / 10:30 am EASTERN / 3:30 pm GMT

BOTH OUTSIDE & INSIDE USA +1 (712) 432-1620, PASSCODE 252143#

I. OPENING MATTERS- recording

A. Serenity Prayer

B. Check Ins/Sobriety Statements

1. Chris D.

2. Stephen S.

3. Bob F.

4. Liz D.

5. Rita H.

6. Linda H.

7. Dan A.

8. Grace R.

C. Reading: Twelve Traditions

D. Reading: Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous is a Twelve Step, Twelve Tradition oriented fellowship based on the model pioneered by Alcoholics Anonymous. The only qualification for S.L.A.A. membership is a desire to stop living out a pattern of sex and love addiction. S.L.A.A. is supported entirely through contributions of its membership, and is free to all who need it. The BOT is a business meeting. We are the business arm of our recovery organization. Respecting the 2nd Tradition, we need to put individual feelings aside when we work for the BOT and focus on what serves the Fellowship best. This is a job. We are trusted servants. We abuse that trust when we do not act professionally in discharging the business of the Fellowship.

II. ASSIGN ROLES

A. Acknowledge Record Keeper – Grace R.

B. Select Timekeeper – Rita

C. Select Spiritual Reminder - Stephen

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. No Announcements

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A. No Changes

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Going forward, the only changes that will be made during meetings will be those of substance changes. Grammatical errors and typos will be addressed via email.
- B. Official Minutes of March 8, 2008
 - 1. No changes to the Official minutes
- C. Internal Minutes of March 8, 2008
 - 1. Dan will add the attachment mentioned in the meeting.
- D. Official Minutes of June 14, 2008
 - 1. No additional changes to the minutes
- E. Internal Minutes of June 14, 2008
 - 1. No additional changes to the minutes
- F. Motion to approve all 4 sets of minutes with the addition of the attachment to the internal minutes for the March 8th meeting.
 - 1. Stephen/Bob
- G. 6/0/0

VI. PHASE I

A. PRIORITY BUSINESS

- 1. Old
 - a. Motion: Approve BOT meeting schedule. (See attached proposal.)
 - i. Moved to Phase II
- 2. New
 - a. Issue for discussion: Invitation and approval of non-BOT members of Board Committees.
 - b. Issue for discussion: BOT Planning and Priorities. (See attached proposal.)
 - c. Issue for discussion: Conference Committee liaison role. (See attached assignment roster and committee meeting schedule.)
 - i. Clarify the existing definition of the role in "BOT Orientation" document.
 - ii. Discuss ways we can achieve the goals and priorities of the Board and the organization as a whole through our liaison roles.
 - iii. Revisit assignments. Are they okay?
 - d. Issue for discussion: Quarterly transfer from Prudent Reserve Fund
 - i. Should we adopt a temporary policy of suspending quarterly transfers to help replenish PRF?
 - ii. If not, shall we approve the Q3 transfer of \$2624.14?
 - e. Issue for discussion: UK licensing agreement. (See attached overview.)

B. REGULAR BUSINESS

- 1. Old
 - a. Item for Discussion: Non SLAA membership on BOT, what we are looking for; as well

as qualities, professional expertise and the like on the BOT. (Rita)

b. Item for Discussion: Discuss developing copyright licensing and literature translation policies. (Richard, Rita)

c. Item for Discussion: Discuss future ABM planning. Need sane boundaries for F.W.S. Staff, including a clear understanding of how deadlines are handled. Also, discuss whether hosting the ABM at a different location every year or two is realistic at this time, given the overwhelming work-load that creates for our staff and the limited resources we have at this stage in our development. (Dan)

2. New

VII. PHASE II

A. PRIORITY BUSINESS

1. Old

a. Motion: Approve BOT meeting schedule. (See attached proposal.)

i. Motion to accept the newly proposed conference meeting dates.

i. Rita/Liz

ii. 6/0/0

2. New

a. Issue for discussion: Invitation and approval of non-BOT members of Board Committees.

i. The issue was discussed.

b. Issue for discussion: BOT Planning and Priorities. (See attached proposal.)

i. The issue was discussed.

c. Issue for discussion: Conference Committee liaison role. (See attached assignment roster and committee meeting schedule.)

i. The issue was discussed.

d. Issue for discussion: Quarterly transfer from Prudent Reserve Fund

i. The issue was discussed.

e. Issue for discussion: UK licensing agreement. (See attached overview.)

This and all remaining items were tabled for the next meeting.

B. REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Old

a. Item for Discussion: Non SLAA membership on BOT, what we are looking for; as well as qualities, professional expertise and the like on the BOT. (Rita)

b. Item for Discussion: Discuss developing copyright licensing and literature translation policies. (Richard, Rita)

c. Item for Discussion: Discuss future ABM planning. Need sane boundaries for F.W.S. Staff, including a clear understanding of how deadlines are handled. Also, discuss whether hosting the ABM at a different location every year or two is realistic at this time, given the overwhelming work-load that creates for our staff and the limited resources we

have at this stage in our development. (Dan)

2. New

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A. Closing Comments

B. Closing Prayer: Higher Power, make me worthy to serve you through this fellowship and the 12 Steps and Traditions. Help me to be generous with my time and effort, to give without counting the cost, to give back wholly for what I have so freely received without looking for any reward, other than that of knowing I have done your will. Through my service, may I give hope and peace to those that still suffer?

F.W.S. FINANCIAL REPORT

This is a financial report as of the end of the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2008, which is to say, as of June 30, 2008. We'll have a report for the entire Fiscal Year, which ended September 30, along with year-on-year comparisons and a budget for Fiscal Year 2009 in the next Newsletter.

The Income Statement shows money coming in and money going out over a period of time, in this case the first three quarters of Fiscal Year 2008. This statement is where to look to answer questions like "where did our money come from," or, "where did we spend our money?" The Balance Sheet shows a snapshot of our financial situation on one particular day, in this case June 30, 2008, the last day of the third quarter of our Fiscal Year. This statement answers questions like "how much do we have," or, "how much do we owe?"

Here are the two statements, with comments following each one.

Income Statement for first three quarters of Fiscal Year 2008

	Q1 Oct-Dec	Q2 Jan-Mar	Q3 Apr-Jun	TOTAL
Income				
Qtrly. Transfers from Prud. Res. Fund	2,531.16	2,598.71	2,518.88	7,648.75
ABC/M Income				
ABC/M Registration	103.91	0.00	25,480.00	25,583.91
Total ABC/M Income	103.91	0.00	25,480.00	25,583.91
Contribution Income- Campaign				
Groups	835.72	195.00	700.11	1,730.83
Individual	0.00	0.00	2,753.65	2,753.65
Intergroups	25.00	0.00	44.00	69.00
Total Contribution Income- Campaign	860.72	195.00	3,497.76	4,553.48
Contribution Income- Regular				
Groups	13,007.48	13,016.01	14,145.38	40,168.87
Individuals	18,194.86	7,354.50	5,669.23	31,218.59
Intergroups	5,590.26	3,361.11	3,401.60	12,352.97
Total Contribution Income- Regular	36,792.60	23,731.62	23,216.21	83,740.43
Income from sales				
Booklets	845.00	1,370.00	910.00	3,125.00
Bookmarks	37.00	103.00	37.50	177.50
Books	17,052.15	21,110.80	23,308.83	61,471.78
CD's/Tapes	963.64	1,872.20	1,574.05	4,409.89
Medallions/Chips	3,997.00	3,839.50	3,553.00	11,389.50

Other Product Sales	908.50	1,481.00	1,329.30	3,718.80
Pamphlets	8,534.20	12,678.00	11,974.00	33,186.20
Postage	5,235.07	5,976.02	6,956.10	18,167.19
Starter Kits	72.00	270.00	240.00	582.00
The Journal	710.50	685.00	816.00	2,211.50
Operations Income - Other	-2,377.75	-2,514.16	-1,307.15	-6,199.06
Total Income from sales	35,977.31	46,871.36	49,391.63	132,240.30
Uncategorized Income	0.00	-13.02	0.00	-13.02
Total Income	76,265.70	73,383.67	104,104.48	253,753.85
Cost of Goods Sold				
Cost of Goods Sold	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Booklets	213.28	56.48	24.85	294.61
Bookmarks	895.96	438.58	2.00	1,336.54
Books	2,601.72	3,255.80	3,275.07	9,132.59
CDs/Tapes	1,365.58	767.47	235.01	2,368.06
Medallions/Chips	1,148.42	1,137.83	1,625.59	3,911.84
Other Products	424.34	845.20	530.25	1,799.79
Pamphlets	1,826.38	2,585.23	2,425.79	6,837.40
Starter Kits	17.10	35.76	34.22	87.08
Cost of Goods Sold - Other	151.80	249.55	229.08	630.43
Total Cost of Goods Sold	8,644.58	9,371.90	8,381.86	26,398.34
Total COGS	8,644.58	9,371.90	8,381.86	26,398.34
Gross Profit (Total Income - Total COGS)	67,621.12	64,011.77	95,722.62	227,355.51
Expense				
BOT				
BOT Hotel	346.74	0.00	0.00	346.74
BOT Meals	109.28	0.00	0.00	109.28
BOT Other	27.19	16.95	10.00	54.14
BOT Travel	342.96	0.00	0.00	342.96
Total BOT	826.17	16.95	10.00	853.12
BOT ABM				
BOT ABM Travel	0.00	1,234.80	431.60	1,666.40
Total BOT ABM	0.00	1,234.80	431.60	1,666.40
Conference Expenses				
ABC/M Other	0.00	0.00	1,126.17	1,126.17
ABM Hotel	500.00	0.00	675.00	1,175.00
Conference Committee Expenses	502.97	0.00	0.00	502.97
Total Conference Expenses	1,002.97	0.00	1,801.17	2,804.14
Contract Services				
Accounting Fees	248.00	289.00	250.00	787.00
Outside Contract Services	119.90	160.28	160.28	440.46
Total Contract Services	367.90	449.28	410.28	1,227.46

Facilities and Equipment				
Equip Rental and Maintenance	4,357.79	4,100.22	2,831.78	11,289.79
Property Insurance	961.00	0.00	0.00	961.00
Rent & Parking	7,724.61	7,475.43	6,894.59	22,094.63
Telephone	2,245.98	1,493.83	1,416.53	5,156.34
Total Facilities and Equipment	15,289.38	13,069.48	11,142.90	39,501.76
General Office Expenses				
Bank Fees	269.00	199.10	298.70	766.80
Credit Card Fees	1,922.98	1,572.55	1,927.19	5,422.72
Dues, Fees and Licenses	50.00	0.00	566.77	616.77
Insurance - Liability, D and O	187.34	307.01	167.34	661.69
Mileage	274.00	813.35	886.51	1,973.86
Profit/Loss	0.00	44.90	0.00	44.90
Total General Office Expenses	2,703.32	2,936.91	3,846.51	9,486.74
Operations				
Computer Supplies	14.19	461.86	1,363.35	1,839.40
Consumable Supplies	4,737.92	2,615.39	2,565.30	9,918.61
Miscellaneous Expenses	542.36	0.00	0.00	542.36
Packaging and Supplies	308.26	1,643.48	997.59	2,949.33
Postage, Mailing Service	8,516.69	8,086.92	5,902.78	22,506.39
The Journal Postage	0.00	0.00	177.67	177.67
The Journal Printing & Paper	0.00	0.00	579.31	579.31
Total Operations	14,119.42	12,807.65	11,586.00	38,513.07
Payroll Expenses				
Employee Benefits	2,766.58	2,565.27	2,565.27	7,897.12
Other Labor	450.00	53.25	35.50	538.75
Payroll Tax Liabilities	1,613.40	2,353.54	1,560.39	5,527.33
Salary Expenses	24,216.31	23,372.20	20,435.74	68,024.25
Total Payroll Expenses	29,046.29	28,344.26	24,596.90	81,987.45
Reconciliation Discrepancies	-0.01	0.00	0.16	0.15
Uncategorized Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Uncleared Items	-705.36	0.00	0.00	-705.36
Total Expense	62,650.08	58,859.33	53,825.52	175,334.93
Net Income	4,971.04	5,152.44	41,897.10	52,020.58

Notes on the Income Statement:

1. Quarterly Transfers from Prudent Reserve Fund: Currently, our Prudent Reserve Fund is invested in a mutual fund, and our current policy is to transfer 1.25% of the value of that fund into our operating fund at the end of each quarter, in fair weather and foul. As you may know, we are in an ongoing process of reconsidering how our Prudent Reserve Fund is set up. The Board is currently discussing how the fund is invested and also the matter of these quarterly transfers. Our hope is to discuss these matters at the Annual Business Meeting next July.
2. Contribution Income – Campaign: This refers to contributions from Individual Contribution Month (ICM). It looks real low, like ICM didn't do much good. But you have to realize that this number only includes contributions that were actually marked "ICM" and most people don't actually mark whether their contribution is for ICM or not, so the real number is probably bigger than what you see here.
3. Cost of Goods Sold: This is the cost of buying the books, pamphlets, medallions, etc, that we then sell to groups and individuals. In other words, it is the cost of our inventory. It might seem strange that a cost is included in the revenue section of the Income Statement, but that is the way it is done. This way, when you look at your total revenue (called "gross profit" on this statement) you aren't fooling yourself by including the cost of what you sold to get the revenue in the first place. This is standard practice.
4. Total Expense: You'll notice that our total expenses are going down over time. That is because we've slowly but steadily been seeking out the inefficiencies at the F.W.S. office and eliminating them. That is a process that will continue.
5. Net Income: This is the "bottom line". We have been spending less than we take in consistently, throughout the fiscal year. As a result, we were able to pay off \$26,000 worth of debt, and begin to put aside some liquid cash reserves to help tide us through small ups and downs. We are hoping to be able to keep up this positive trend.

[Please note that the total net income for the three-quarter period is a bit inflated. We take in most of the revenue for the ABM in the third quarter, but we don't actually pay out the expenses for the ABM until the fourth quarter, so if you take out the ABM revenue, which will eventually get paid out as ABM expenses, our net income would look something like \$26,500 for the first three-quarters of Fiscal Year 2008, which allowed us to pay off our debts.]

Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2008

	<u>Jun 30, 08</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
BofA ABM/TEF	24,805.00
BofA Checking	2,950.61
BofA COGS	590.73
BofA Liquid Reserve	4,000.00
Total Checking/Savings	<u>32,346.34</u>
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	<u>4,809.79</u>
Total Accounts Receivable	4,809.79
Other Current Assets	
Inventory Asset	
Booklets	4.62
Bookmarks	79.77
Books	21,468.11
CDs/Tapes	3,320.82
Medallions/Chips	10,495.17
Other Products	593.58
Pamphlets	20,128.20
Starter Kits	23.33
Inventory Asset - Other	<u>48.81</u>
Total Inventory Asset	56,162.41
Undeposited Funds	<u>2,802.92</u>
Total Other Current Assets	<u>58,965.33</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>96,121.46</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>96,121.46</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	<u>3,926.51</u>
Total Accounts Payable	<u>3,926.51</u>

Total Current Liabilities	<u>3,926.51</u>
 Total Liabilities	 3,926.51
 Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	96,509.70 _____
Unrestricted Net Assets	21,909.45
Net Income	<u>17,594.70</u>
Total Equity	<u>92,194.95</u>
 TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	 <u><u>96,121.46</u></u>

Notes on the Balance Sheet:

1. Keep in mind that this is a snapshot as of June 30, 2008, which is a while ago now.
2. BofA ABM/TEF: This is a separate account where we keep all of the money for the ABM, most of which comes from delegate registration. The expenses for the ABM get paid several months after the revenue comes in. We keep the revenue separate like this so that we don't accidentally spend it on something else. Sounds kind of silly maybe, but this has actually happened, which is why we do it this way.
3. BofA COGS: Same goes for the Cost of Goods Sold. Every time we sell a book or a pamphlet or a medallion we set aside the cost of replacing that inventory. As a result, when the time comes to buy new inventory, the money is already set aside, because we knew not to spend it on something else. Again, this has happened in the past. The balance in this account was really low on June 30 because we had just gotten done buying a whole lot of inventory.
4. BofA Liquid Reserve: This is a cash reserve that we are beginning to develop so that we can sail smoothly through short-term ups and downs. For example, sometimes in the Fall we get a drop-off in contributions, which picks up again in the Spring. Or, we might suddenly need to replace some computer equipment or hire an attorney or accountant for some reason. These kinds of short-term fluctuations in revenue or expense require some cash reserves, and we are slowly building that up. We hope to get this balance up to the equivalent of two month's operating expenses over the next few years.
5. Prudent Reserve Fund: We have a Prudent Reserve Fund which is intended to protect us against catastrophic financial shortfall. This fund is invested in a mutual fund. You don't see it on this balance sheet because keeping track of the fluctuations in the value of the fund, whenever the stock market goes up and down, makes our Income Statement go haywire. On June 30, 2008, the value of this fund was \$180,280.86. That is money we would only spend in the case of a serious financial emergency at F.W.S. Hopefully, hopefully, hopefully, the days of such catastrophic emergencies are behind us.

[Note: in the next F.W.S. Newsletter you will see the Prudent Reserve Fund and it's ups and downs in a separate set of financial reports. Also, as noted above, the Board of Trustees is considering how this fund should be invested, and will hopefully be discussing that matter with the Conference at the 2009 ABM.]

WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH THE 2008 ABM MINUTES?

Ordinarily this issue of the FWS Newsletter would include the minutes of the ABM. We know that many of you are eager to read those minutes and find out in more detail what happened at the ABM. Unfortunately, the individual that we hired as a record-keeper for the ABM has not been able to follow through on the task of generating the minutes. We have found another contractor to generate minutes based on the recordings made at the ABM. This new contractor is someone who is familiar with all of our jargon and terminology because she has served as record-keeper for the Board of Trustees for some time and has done an excellent job. We'll send you the ABM minutes as soon as they are completed and approved. In the meantime, we ask for your patience and forgiveness.

HOST THE 2010 INTERNATIONAL RECOVERY CONVENTION!



*Augustine Fellowship 1550 NE Loop 410 Ste 118 San Antonio, TX 78209
Tel: (210) 828-7900 Fax: (210) 828-7902*

HOST THE WHAT?

The International Recovery Convention (IRC) is an International event that happens every two years (typically) immediately following the Annual Business Meeting (ABM). The ABM and IRC are sponsored by Fellowship-Wide Service (FWS) but they are usually organized and hosted by a local Intergroup. Usually an Intergroup will commit to host the ABM for two years in a row, and organize the IRC on the first of those years, immediately after the ABM. Thus, what we are looking for now is an Intergroup to host the ABM and IRC together, in 2010, and the ABM only, in 2011. Hosting these events is a lot of fun and can really boost morale and involvement at the Intergroup level.

What to do and when to do it by:

If your Intergroup is interested in submitting a bid to host the 2010 IRC and ABM, and the 2011 ABM, please contact us as soon as possible so we can talk about what is required. The deadline for bids is Jan 31, 2009, but if you are interested it would be best to be in touch with us well before that so that we can support you in putting together your bid.

Let us know

- Call the number above, or...
- Email the Chair of the Board of Trustees: dan_a@slaafws.org

DEADLINE DATES FOR 2009 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

January 14, Monday (6 month prior to ABM)—Send Announcements of Annual Business Meeting, Delegate Sign-up, Board of Trustees Nominations, and Distribute Forms

March 16, Monday (120 days prior to ABM)—Delegate Registrations Due

March 31, Tuesday (105 days prior to ABM)—Deadline: Motion/Issue Submission for 1st BMIS Distribution to Conference

April 10, Good Friday (95 days prior to ABM)—1st BMIS Distributed to Conference Members for Feedback

April 30, Thursday (75 days prior to ABM)—Early ABM Registrations Due

May 15, Friday (60 days prior to ABM)—Deadline: BMIS Conference/Committee Comments/Reports;
Deadline: Motion/Issue Submission for 2nd BMIS Distribution to Fellowship Worldwide
Board of Trustees Nominations Due

May 30, Saturday (45 days prior to ABM)—2nd BMIS Distributed Worldwide
Board of Trustees Nomination Letters Distributed Worldwide

July 14-17, Tuesday-Friday—2009 Annual Business Meeting

NOVEMBER IS GRATITUDE MONTH

Giving Back What Has So Generously Been Given

Every November, members of Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous are invited to acknowledge their gratitude to the Fellowship that has sustained their lives as recovering addicts. As a way of giving thanks, individuals, groups, and Intergroups are encouraged to contribute directly to Fellowship-Wide Services (F.W.S.). This is in keeping with Tradition Seven, which states that "Every S.L.A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."

To share the impact such generosity makes on the Fellowship as a whole, Fellowship-Wide Services has outlined the services and responsibilities of the F.W.S. Office, supported by your contributions; and, how individuals, groups and Intergroups can contribute this November and throughout the year.

Fellowship-Wide Services (F.W.S.)

The F.W.S. Office is the direct link to all S.L.A.A. Intergroups, groups and individual members world-wide. The main responsibility of the F.W.S. Office is to carry the message -- to help the addict who still suffers. Additionally, the F.W.S. Office assists the Board of Trustees in performing its duties and legal requirements.

What F.W.S. Provides, What Contributions Support

- Printing, selling, and distribution of Conference-Approved literature (S.L.A.A. Basic Text, pamphlets, medallions, and Starter Kits for groups and Intergroups)
- Assistance with starting new meetings and Intergroups world-wide
- Coordination of Annual Business Conference/Meeting
- Support to Conference Committees which facilitate overall growth of the fellowship, including literature translation, creation of new literature, outreach to institutions and prisons, website development and maintenance, and communications with Intergroups and members at large
- Bookkeeping and maintenance of legal documents

Ways to Give

- Groups are encouraged to pass an additional basket every week during the month of November that goes directly to F.W.S.
- Individuals can set up recurring contributions (i.e. monthly) to be automatically deducted from ones debit or credit card at www.slaafws.org.
- Individuals, groups and Intergroups can make a one-time contribution online at www.slaafws.org.
- Individuals, groups and Intergroups can make a one-time contribution by check.
 - Please make check payable to **Fellowship-Wide Services** and write *Gratitude Month* in memo
 - Send check to F.W.S., 1550 NE Loop, 410 Suite 118, San Antonio, TX 78209

Special Note: Individuals who make direct contributions to F.W.S. may claim their gift as tax-deductible as S.L.A.A. is a separate 501c3 organization.

Please contact Liz D at lizcstc@hotmail.com with any questions regarding S.L.A.A. contributions during Gratitude Month or year-round.

Thank You

This gesture of gratitude speaks to our spiritual responsibility and the principle of participation contained in the 12 Traditions of S.L.A.A. Such investments are vital to the sustenance of the S.L.A.A. Fellowship and enable us to carry the message to the addict who still suffers.

TRADITION QUESTION #5

In trying to clearly describe a road to recovery in a 20 minute share in an SLAA speaker meeting, why is said that it is not okay to mention other 12 step programs "at length"?

The comments below were given by various members of the Conference Steps and Traditions Committee and do not represent a group conscience of the entire committee. The opinions expressed here are solely that of the person giving them. Take what you like and leave the rest.

Our Tradition is that we do not have an opinion on other issues (*Tradition 10: S.L.A.A. has no opinion on outside issues...*) and we are not affiliated with any other organizations (*Tradition 3: ... 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.*) Also, members of a fellowship do not speak for the fellowship and they should maintain anonymity about ones membership. (*Tradition 11: ... We need guard with special care the anonymity of all fellow S.L.A.A. members.*) Therefore, when one is sharing one's own story, it is best to relate to ones addiction and sobriety instead of specifics or differences.

It is important to remember that every person is free to share whatever is in their hearts about recovery. We have suggestions, customs, and guidelines, not rules. The reason for suggesting that sharing at an SLAA meeting (just as it is for sharing at any other 12 Step meeting), should be mostly about sex and love addiction, is because that is what everyone there has in common. Sharing about that experience, wherever it took us, is what most people will identify with. However, experience in another "S" program is probably just as relevant, and when our journey into recovery was through other routes, including sharing the role that formal religion played in your recovery, is of course ok to share. The point is that we are sharing our experience, hope, and recovery in order to help others. Dwelling on specific religious beliefs, promoting other organizations, even promoting SLAA, are not as likely to help others, as is simply sharing honestly our own journey in addiction and recovery. My own story includes much sexual acting out and romantic intrigue which I lived first in bars, and then in churches, my workplace, and in AA meetings. Someone not familiar with AA or the churches I attended, might think they "tolerated" my behavior too much, so I don't do that program any favors by mentioning it specifically. But AA got me sober and finally made it necessary for me to see the ways in which I was not practicing the principles of recovery in all areas of my life. That is always part of my story, but the story is about one's own experience, not about any organization, including SLAA, although at an SLAA meeting, everyone can relate to that part of the story, and relating to each other's stories is what sharing is all about.

While I certainly hold all 12 Step Programs in the deepest of respect, I prefer not to hear all about them as a member is sharing. The reason being, that my experiences are with sex and love addiction and not with alcohol, drugs, etc. I can't always make a point of reference to what someone might be sharing if the speak in depth about another addiction and their recovery from it. I do realize, however, that there are times when it is necessary to make mention of another fellowship because the member might have, when they became sober, realized that there was more involved in their addictive behaviors. In fact they might have realized that the other addiction was not their core addiction, but they used it as a drug to soothe the pain of their sexual addictions. In those cases, I appreciate the member being honest and forthright as they tell what it was like and how they came to find the rooms of S.L.A.A.

For the same reason, I do not believe that speaking of religious doctrine or religious experiences are productive, since each member has his/her own set of beliefs or reasons for not being a part of any religion. It becomes counterproductive when one is sharing along the lines of experiences which cannot be shared by the majority of the people in the room. For example, many times in a meeting I hear references to the traditions and practices of a certain religion using terms which would only be understood by a member of that particular religion. When that happens, I find myself, wondering just what, exactly is the member talking about.

Although other 12 Step Programs are certainly important to many in the room, as well as is some sort of set of religious beliefs, to spend extended periods in a brief share or in a lead discussing those matters is not going to help me continue to recover from my sexual issues. Since we do not endorse other programs (*Tradition 6: An S.L.A.A. group or S.L.A.A. as a whole ought never to 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.*) or any particular set of beliefs, nor do we endorse the fine efforts of many professional therapists, these things would become very distracting to the other members in the meeting, whether a new comer or a long timer. The same would be true of mentioning in depth experiences or practices of other "S" Fellowships.

Although, I am involved in other activities outside S.L.A.A., I do not bring those up other than a brief mention when they are absolutely necessary to my sharing.

Those are my feelings, take what you need and leave the rest.

What do you think?

The CSTC is a group of volunteers, some of whom were ABM delegates, and others who volunteered out of interest. We do not represent a group conscience of SLAA, but are committed to bringing thoughtful discussion and study of 12 Step Fellowship literature and experience to the questions that are brought to us. We offer this summary as the results of our discussions. We present the major points of concern in the hopes that wider discussion in the Fellowship will help us evolve our customs and practice of the SLAA program of recovery to better represent the loving guidance of a Higher Power. Always, we affirm the autonomy of each group and the need for each individual to follow her/his own conscience. No decision of this group, or any other, is ever forced upon another, even when we believe a practice is clearly in conflict with the Steps and Traditions.

TRADITIONS QUESTION FROM THE 2007 ABM

Is the message of S.L.A.A., which is mentioned in the 5th Tradition, only about the 12 Steps or does it include principles of the organization as expressed in the Preamble of Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous?

The comments below were given by various members of the Conference Steps and Traditions Committee and do not represent a group conscience of the entire committee. The opinions expressed here are solely that of the person giving them. Take what you like and leave the rest.

I do not think any Traditions apply except Tradition 5. I think the most relevant reference here is to the 12th Step. It states "practice these principles (of the Steps) in all areas of our lives." The message is the spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, and the principles of the Traditions that are referenced in the Preamble.

The message referred to in the Fifth Tradition is the message of the Twelfth Step. "Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps..." Our message is that the Steps bring about a spiritual awakening. The spiritual awakening means that we can "...do, feel, and believe, that which we could not do before on [our] own unaided strength and resources alone."

I found the information in Chapter 6 of the *Basic Text*. The author points out that all we can do is to share our own personal experience and rely on guidance from our Higher Power that these individuals who need to hear this message would be led to us. The author reminds us that our mission is not to recruit others, but to remember the Eleventh Tradition, of "attraction not promotion." (p. 18, par.2)

I understand this to mean that any of the 12 Steps and/ or the Preamble, that have specifically been a part of our own experience, strength, and hope, are part of our S.L.A.A. message. To me, when we share the S.L.A.A. message, we share our pain, what our patterns looked like, what we had to do to get sober, and finally what we are doing to stay sober.

It is important, according to the author of our Basic Text, to be ready to admit that there is much we do not know. For example, we don't know where our recoveries are headed or whether another's patterns might actually qualify them as sex and love addicts. We don't know why others could behave a certain way and not be powerless, but we could not. It is necessary for us to be humble and admit that there is much we don't know. (p.119, par. 2)

I guess the S.L.A.A. message for me is my experience, strength, and hope.

In response to the question at hand, the message of S.L.A.A. is definitely the 12 Steps and how my life has changed as the result of working and living the 12 Steps. The 12 Steps are summed up quite neatly in the 5 major resources listed within the Preamble; Sobriety, Sponsorship/Meetings, Steps, Service, and Spirituality. The Preamble absolutely should be included in the message of the program which we are carrying to the suffering addict.

The CSTC is a group of volunteers, some of whom were ABM delegates, and others who volunteered out of interest. We do not represent a group conscience of S.L.A.A., but are committed to bringing thoughtful discussion and study of 12 Step Fellowship literature and experience to the questions that are brought to us. We offer this summary as the results of our discussions. We present the major points of concern in the hopes that wider discussion in the Fellowship will help us evolve our customs and practice of the S.L.A.A. program of recovery to better represent the loving guidance of a Higher Power. Always, we affirm the

autonomy of each group and the need for each individual to follow her/his own conscience. No decision of this group, or any other, is ever forced upon another, even when we believe a practice is clearly in conflict with the Steps and Traditions.

LETTER FROM THE CONFERENCE ANOREXIA COMMITTEE (CAC)

Dear SLAA members,

We welcome ANY member of SLAA to join us at any level of service. That means that they may join a CAC Subcommittee without needing to be a CAC member. Anyone is encouraged to join our 'Friends Roster' if they are not a CAC member to receive two or three emails monthly -- typically the upcoming agenda, the recent minutes, and occasionally a third email providing poll questions or requests for comment on draft literature. Simply send your request to join the Friends Roster to anorexia@slaafws.org and we will be in touch. Please include your:

email address, first name,

last initial, and country (and state or territory if in the US or Canada)

for our record keeping.

The Conference Anorexia Committee Sobriety Subcommittee will be hosting THREE teleconferences for brainstorming/comments/input on an intriguing question -- *How do SLAA anorexic members define their sobriety date?*

These teleconferences will be on [Saturdays] 11/8/2008, 12/13/2008, and 1/10/2009 at 10:30am Pacific / 1:30pm Eastern / 5:30pm Italy / 18:30 UTC/GMT. The dial-in number is 712-432-1600 and the 'access code' is 355090# -- additional dial-in numbers are available for some international callers. [Italy members use dial-in number 848 390 156 with same access code.]

Please sign up as soon as possible, as we already have some material prepared in advance that we will provide by email to help in the brainstorming process. Just email us at anorexia@slaafws.org to help in this service.

Respectfully,

Tim F., on behalf of the CAC

To contact the editor of the F.W.S. Newsletter, Deb W., please send emails to fwsnews@slaafws.org .
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