

## Fellowship-Wide Services Newsletter

1550 NE Loop 410 Suite 118 San Antonio, TX 78209-1626  
+1 (210)-828-7900 Website: [www.slaafws.org](http://www.slaafws.org)



January 2008

# Welcome to the Second Edition 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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- Subscribe now on the F.W.S. homepage.
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### **EXCITING THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT FWS**

HERE'S SOME EXAMPLES:

- We have greatly improved our website and created a new Online Store
- We now have our complete inventory of all Books, Pamphlets, CD's, Tapes, and Journal Booklets on our new online store for the first time.
- Soon we will have laminated 2' X 3' Steps and Traditions Posters available
- More Than 650 orders and contributions were received in the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2008 (October 1 through December 31, 2007). **[See page 5 for Q1 financial reports.]**
- Group and Individual Donations are improving. **[See page 10 for a list of contributions from groups and Intergroups.]**
- Planning Has Begun for the July 2008 Annual Business Meeting and International Recovery Convention. We'll be sending out flyers and forms very soon.
- More Than 25 Emails and 10 Phone Inquiries from addicts looking for recovery are Handled Per Day at FWS.

### **A REPORT FROM THE FWS GENERAL MANAGER.**

As you probably know already, finances have been a problem for S.L.A.A./FWS. We are doing everything we can to run the FWS office as cheaply as we can and still provide the service you, the S.L.A.A. member, deserves. We have gone from three full time employees to one full-time and one part-time. We are also looking into other ways to conserve without greatly affecting our service. And we are creating new services without increasing our expenses.

**[See page 4 to read the full report from the FWS General Manager.]**

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

F.W.S. is getting its act together more and more on the financial and accounting front. This quarter we have both Income Statement and Balance Sheet. (Last quarter we did not have an accurate Balance Sheet yet.) We don't have comparisons to our budget yet, but we will soon. Many people glaze over when presented with financial statements so we've provided some explanatory notes to help make sense of what you are looking at. It's worth taking time to familiarize yourself with these statements because at the end of the day the entire membership of Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous holds the authority and responsibility for our Fellowship-Wide service-structure, and it's good to know what's being done in your name. You might very well find you have something to say about it all. If so, please don't just say it to your bathroom mirror. Let us know, because we need your input.

**[See page 5 for the actual financial statements and more comments.]**

## **CONTRIBUTIONS LIST (GROUPS AND INTERGROUPS)**

**[See page 10 to make sure your group's contribution was received.]**

## **TAMPA, FLORIDA HOSTS JULY, 2008 INTERNATIONAL RECOVERY CONVENTION AND ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING.**

We will send out lots of information about this in a separate email to the Newsletter subscription list in a week or so.

## **WHAT'S UP WITH THE FWS BOARD OF TRUSTEES?**

### **FIRST, WHAT IS THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT)?**

Many people ask this question. Board Member Bob F. answers it in his personal message on page 15.

### **A REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.**

F.W.S. is like a boat that has survived a terrible storm. The rain and the wind have stopped, and the waves are no longer crashing over the boat and threatening to destroy it at any moment. But the boat is still full of water, and needs a whole lot of bailing and repair before it is fully sea-worthy. The crew has their hands full with pumping the water out of the boat, keeping it from turning over as the waves roll by, and trying to make the repairs necessary to get underway once more. The survival of this little boat is not guaranteed, but we have made a lot of progress in the right direction, and we have great hopes for what is to come.

**[See page 13 to read the rest of the Chair's report.]**

### **Board of Trustees Messages**

Many people have said that they want to hear more from individual members of the Board so that they can feel more connected to who we are and what we do. Four current BOT members share about themselves and their service for SLAA.

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| <a href="#">Bob F.</a> (Includes an overview of what the Board is.) | <b>[See page 15]</b> |
| <a href="#">Liz D.</a>  | <b>[See page 17]</b> |
| <a href="#">Christopher D.</a>                                      | <b>[See page 18]</b> |
| <a href="#">Stephen S.</a>  | <b>[See page 19]</b> |

## **FWS Board Committee Reports**

There are three committees that make up the Board of Trustees. Each of these committees is tasked with a set of responsibilities. Also, in addition to the Board members on each committee there are also “non-Board” members on each committee, SLAA members who are particularly interested in the work of one of the Board committees and who have been invited by that committee to join them and work with them.

Here are reports from the Chairs of the three Board Committees.

|                      |   |                      |
|----------------------|---|----------------------|
| <a href="#">BFOC</a> | <a href="#">Board Finance and Operating Committee</a>     | <b>[See page 20]</b> |
| <a href="#">BGNC</a> | <a href="#">Board Governance and Nominating Committee</a> | <b>[See page 20]</b> |
| <a href="#">BPRC</a> | <a href="#">Board Public Relations Committee</a>          | <b>[See page 21]</b> |

## **WHAT’S HAPPENING IN THE FWS CONFERENCE?**

The FWS Conference is the mechanism by which the Fellowship of SLAA (that’s you) oversees, and has ultimate responsibility for, the operations, finances, and policies of Fellowship-Wide Services. The Board of Trustees has a more hand’s-on role, but the Conference is where the ultimate responsibility lies.

Here are reports from seven of the active Conference Committees:

|                      |   |                      |
|----------------------|---|----------------------|
| <a href="#">CAC</a>  | <a href="#">Conference Anorexia Committee</a>             | <b>[See page 22]</b> |
| <a href="#">CLC</a>  | <a href="#">Conference Literature Committee</a>           | <b>[See page 22]</b> |
| <a href="#">CPIC</a> | <a href="#">Conference Public Information Committee</a>   | <b>[See page 23]</b> |
| <a href="#">CSTC</a> | <a href="#">Conference Steps and Traditions Committee</a> | <b>[See page 23]</b> |
| <a href="#">LMS</a>  | <a href="#">Leadership Mentoring Subcommittee (CCC)</a>   | <b>[See page 24]</b> |
| <a href="#">MRC</a>  | <a href="#">Members Retention Committee</a>               | <b>[See page 25]</b> |
| <a href="#">POC</a>  | <a href="#">Prision Outreach Committee</a>                | <b>[See page 25]</b> |

**On the following pages you will find additional content referred to in the body of the newsletter above.**

## **A report from the FWS General Manager.**

As you probably know already, finances have been a problem for S.L.A.A./FWS. We are doing everything we can to run the FWS office as cheaply as we can and still provide the service you, the S.L.A.A. member, deserves. We have gone from three full time employees to one full-time and one part-time. We are also looking into other ways to conserve without greatly affecting our service. And we are creating new services without increasing our expenses.

Our new, Quickbooks accounting system is up and running. It was a difficult and time-consuming task to switch from one system to another, but we have completed this task and now have very accurate financial reporting. This allows us to quickly know how well, or poorly, we are doing at any given time. In the past, getting accurate financial reports was just short of impossible. Now it is a standard part of our day-to-day business.

The tape and CD inventory has been revamped, with many more tapes and CD's available, and now all tapes are priced the same and all CD's are priced the same. We have reduced the cost of the recorded S.L.A.A. Basic Text on both tapes and CD's. We are ordering our chips and medallions directly from the manufacturer, eliminating the middle-man, saving more for the Fellowship. We will soon have laminated 2' x 3' Steps and Traditions posters available.

The most exciting thing at FWS is the new web site and online store. The new web site has been up for several months, with many more changes and improvements on the way. In addition the new online store is now working. A very special thank you to Beth S. of the Board Public Relations Committee for her many hundreds of hours of volunteer work making the new site and store available to everyone. We really can't thank her enough.

Shipping has been updated. The online store will calculate shipping by weight, box size and zip code. International shipping will be calculated and eliminate double charges, first for the item and then for the shipping. This means that large orders will no longer pay huge shipping costs, and for small orders there will now be cheaper options to keep those orders affordable.

The new online store has a place to make one-time or recurring donations via credit/debit cards direct to FWS. We are very excited about the possibility for people to set up recurring contributions and hope that people will check out that option and consider doing it.

Over 650 orders and contributions were logged between October 1, and December 31, 2007. We are answering more than 25 emails and 10 phone inquiries per day.

We are doing everything possible to streamline our procedures and operate within our budget. Staffing has been cut from three positions to one full-time person (General Manager) and one part-time person. We are investigating ways of reducing our monthly rent. This Newsletter, as well as other communications from the FWS office, Board and Conference Committees, are using our website and email whenever possible.

We are using a free teleconference service for all teleconference board and committee meetings.

This is an exciting time, even if it is very challenging. We look forward to providing better service and greater operational efficiency. Let us know what you want from us and we'll do what we can with the resources you send us.

Linda Hamilton,  
FWS General Manager.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

F.W.S. is getting its act together more and more on the financial and accounting front. This quarter we have both Income Statement and Balance Sheet. (Last quarter we did not have an accurate Balance Sheet yet.) We don't have comparisons to our budget yet, but we will soon. Many people glaze over when presented with financial statements so we've provided some explanatory notes to help make sense of what you are looking at. It's worth taking time to familiarize yourself with these statements because at the end of the day the entire membership of Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous holds the authority and responsibility for our Fellowship-Wide service-structure, and it's good to know what's being done in your name. You might very well find you have something to say about it all. If so, please don't just say it to your bathroom mirror. Let us know, because we need your input.

**Note:** A correction/clarification is in order from last quarter. In the October, 2007 F.W.S. Newsletter we said that F.W.S. had "lost" \$60,000 during Fiscal Year 2007 (Which ended Sept. 30, 2007). Some members interpreted this to mean that the money had actually gone missing. What we meant was that we had an "operating loss" of \$60,000, which means that we spent \$60,000 more than we took in over the course of the year. An operating loss of that size is very bad news, but not as bad as having the money completely disappear! Let us reassure you that, as bad as things were financially during that fiscal year, every penny we took in, and every penny we spent, was accounted for. Nothing was "lost".

Now to the current financial statements:

**Balance Sheet:** The Balance Sheet gives a snapshot of our assets and liabilities as of the last day of the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2008 (i.e. December 31, 2007). You can see that we are operating on not very much cash at all. We have more in accounts payable (outstanding bills) than we do in cash. This has gotten better just in the past few weeks, and we are hopeful it will continue to get better, but we are still living right on the edge financially, and we are continuously looking for ways to cut costs without reducing services. A few notes to clarify what you are looking at in the Balance Sheet:

1. The Vanguard Market Index Fund is our main Prudent Reserve Fund, which we keep in case we experience extreme financial difficulty. If it were full it would contain 12 months' operating expenses, which at this time would be \$311,550. So you can see that we are about a hundred grand short of having a full prudent reserve. This prudent reserve is extremely important for our operational security, and it is only accessible under the direst of circumstances.
2. The B of A Prudent Reserve account is our secondary prudent reserve, which is intended to hold 2 months' worth of operating expenses to smooth us through short-term, unexpected ups and downs. Thus it should currently hold \$51,925, and as you can see we are \$49,925 short of that goal. This more "liquid" prudent reserve account is designed to be easier to get at than the main "illiquid" fund mentioned above, but it is still very much a rainy-day fund and something that we place a high priority on filling up.
3. The COGS/TEF account is a temporary reserve where we put aside the cost of replacing whatever literature and merchandise we've sold each week. That way, when it is time to replenish our books, pamphlets, or chips, we have the money available. When we sell a book we receive the full price of the book. But some of that money is not really ours to spend, because we need it to eventually replace that book in our inventory. If we didn't set that money aside in this reserve account, and spent it instead, we would be in big trouble when the time came to buy more books. Indeed, that is exactly what happened last year, which is part of how we got ourselves into such a pickle. That's why we set up this reserve account.
4. Equity simply refers to the difference between our assets and our liabilities. In a private business this would be the value of the business to the owner. For a non-profit like us it just means the total value of the assets of the organization, minus how much we owe. It looks like a really huge number, but almost all of it is tied up either in our Prudent Reserve Fund or in our inventory. The actually amount of money we have to run the organization is still very small.

Comments on the Income Statement follow the Balance Sheet.

**Balance Sheet for  
Augustine Fellowship, SLAA, Fellowship-Wide Services, Inc.**

December 31, 2007

|                                       | <b>Dec 31, 07</b> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                         |                   |
| <b>Current Assets</b>                 |                   |
| <b>Checking/Savings</b>               |                   |
| BofA Checking                         | 2,046.00          |
| BofA COGS/TEF                         | 4,905.83          |
| BofA Prudent Reserve                  | 2,000.00          |
| Fidelity Mutual Fund Account          | 3,233.66          |
| Vanguard Market Index Fund            | 217,474.46        |
| <b>Total Checking/Savings</b>         | 229,659.95        |
| <b>Accounts Receivable</b>            |                   |
| Accounts Receivable                   | 3,679.17          |
| <b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>      | 3,679.17          |
| <b>Other Current Assets</b>           |                   |
| <b>Inventory Asset</b>                |                   |
| Booklets                              | 63.00             |
| Bookmarks                             | 120.50            |
| Books                                 | 16,366.96         |
| CDs/Tapes                             | 2,798.65          |
| Medallions/Chips                      | 7,344.19          |
| Other Products                        | 761.01            |
| Pamphlets                             | 20,013.28         |
| Starter Kits                          | 8.90              |
| Inventory Asset - Other               | 34.00             |
| <b>Total Inventory Asset</b>          | 47,510.49         |
| <b>Total Other Current Assets</b>     | 47,510.49         |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b>           | 280,849.61        |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                   | <b>280,849.61</b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>       |                   |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                    |                   |
| <b>Current Liabilities</b>            |                   |
| <b>Accounts Payable</b>               |                   |
| Accounts Payable                      | 16,751.21         |
| <b>Total Accounts Payable</b>         | 16,751.21         |
| <b>Total Current Liabilities</b>      | 16,751.21         |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>              | 16,751.21         |
| <b>Equity</b>                         |                   |
| Opening Bal Equity                    | 279,558.28        |
| Unrestricted Net Assets               | -21,909.45        |
| Net Income                            | 6,449.57          |
| <b>Total Equity</b>                   | 264,098.40        |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b> | <b>280,849.61</b> |

**Income Statement:** The Income Statement shows what we took in, and what we spent, over the course of the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2008 (October 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007). The good news is that we did not show an "operating loss" in this quarter. Instead, as you will see at the bottom of the income statement, we showed net income of almost \$6500. That is excellent news because it means we were able to pay off some of our past-due accounts and even begin setting aside a small amount of money to fill up our prudent reserve. A few clarifying comments about the Income Statement:

1. The Cost of Goods Sold (COGS) is the part of our revenue from sales of literature and merchandise that we will eventually need to replace what we sold during the quarter. Thus, it does not count as "gross profit" because it is not really ours to spend. Thus, if you want to know what we received from sales of literature and merchandise you have to subtract COGS from operations income. Doing so reveals that we received quite a bit more from contributions than from sales.
2. "Contributions: campaign" refers to contributions that we received during our annual "Gratitude Month" in November. It looks really small because most groups don't mark their Gratitude Month contributions separately, so we really don't know how much we received from Gratitude Month, and it may be that tracking it separately is not really that helpful.
3. The "Dividend, Interest" category is money that we transfer routinely each quarter from our Prudent Reserve Fund to our checking account, at a rate of 1.5% per quarter. These quarterly transfers have been the policy of the Board of Trustees for the past four years. At the present time the Board is considering terminating these transfers, but no decision has been made yet.
4. The expense for BOT (which stands for Board of Trustees) was for a member of the Board to travel to the F.W.S. office in San Antonio, TX to help the General Manager with some financial and operational issues.
5. There is reason to hope that our net income may increase over the coming months as our expenses continue to decrease. Here are some particulars:
  - a. Equipment Rental and Maintenance will go down by as much as \$900/mo as we pay off the leases on the computer equipment we purchased when the office moved to San Antonio.
  - b. Credit Card Fees will go down as soon as our new online store is completed, because it will include a new card-processing service with lower fees.
  - c. Salary Expenses will go down by \$1000/mo in the near future because we are currently paying off some past-due overtime expenses from more than a year ago and that will be completed in a few months.
  - d. We are also actively looking into ways to reduce our office rent, which could result in several hundred dollars savings per month.

This Income Statement obviously has some good news in it, but we are still being very cautious about money, and in particular about taking on any new expenses. As many of you know we are operating on a very bare-bones staff and there are lots of services that people have told us they would like us to be able to provide which we are still not nearly able to provide with the staff we can currently afford. We will continue to manage the office so that the number at the bottom of the Income Statement is in black rather than red, but in order to do more service for the addict who still suffers we will need more money.

**Income Statement for  
Augustine Fellowship, SLAA, Fellowship-Wide Services, Inc.**

Fiscal Year 2008, Quarter One  
October 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007

|  | <b>Oct - Dec 07</b> |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>Income</b>                              |                     |
| <b>ABC/M Income</b>                        |                     |
| ABC/M Registration                         | 103.91              |
| <b>Total ABC/M Income</b>                  | 103.91              |
| <b>Contribution Income- Campaign</b>       |                     |
| Groups                                     | 835.72              |
| Intergroups                                | 25.00               |
| <b>Total Contribution Income- Campaign</b> | 860.72              |
| <b>Contribution Income- Regular</b>        |                     |
| Groups                                     | 13,007.48           |
| Individuals                                | 18,194.86           |
| Intergroups                                | 5,540.26            |
| Step Chip Fund                             | 50.00               |
| <b>Total Contribution Income- Regular</b>  | 36,792.60           |
| <b>Investments</b>                         |                     |
| Dividend, Interest (Securities)            | 2,531.16            |
| <b>Total Investments</b>                   | 2,531.16            |
| <b>Operations Income</b>                   |                     |
| Booklets                                   | 845.00              |
| Bookmarks                                  | 37.00               |
| Books                                      | 17,055.15           |
| CD's/Tapes                                 | 912.08              |
| Medallions/Chips                           | 3,997.00            |
| Other Product Sales                        | 893.50              |
| Pamphlets                                  | 8,544.20            |
| Postage                                    | 4,985.16            |
| Starter Kits                               | 72.00               |
| The Journal                                | 710.50              |
| Operations Income - Other                  | -2,377.75           |
| <b>Total Operations Income</b>             | 35,673.84           |
| <b>Total Income</b>                        | 75,962.23           |
| <b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>                  |                     |
| <b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>                  |                     |
| Booklets                                   | 213.28              |
| Bookmarks                                  | 895.96              |
| Books                                      | 2,601.72            |
| CDs/Tapes                                  | 1,243.30            |
| Medallions/Chips                           | 1,148.42            |
| Other Products                             | 413.69              |
| Pamphlets                                  | 1,828.18            |
| Starter Kits                               | 17.10               |
| Cost of Goods Sold - Other                 | 151.80              |
| <b>Total Cost of Goods Sold</b>            | 8,513.45            |
| <b>Total COGS</b>                          | 8,513.45            |
| <b>Gross Profit</b>                        | 67,448.78           |



|                                       |                        |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Expense</b>                        |                        |
| <b>BOT</b>                            |                        |
| BOT- Other                            | 27.19                  |
| BOT Hotel                             | 346.74                 |
| BOT Meals                             | 109.28                 |
| BOT Travel                            | <u>342.96</u>          |
| <b>Total BOT</b>                      | 826.17                 |
| <b>Conference Expenses</b>            |                        |
| ABM Hotel                             | 500.00                 |
| Conference Committee Expenses         | <u>502.97</u>          |
| <b>Total Conference Expenses</b>      | 1,002.97               |
| <b>Contract Services</b>              |                        |
| Accounting Fees                       | 248.00                 |
| Outside Contract Services             | <u>119.90</u>          |
| <b>Total Contract Services</b>        | 367.90                 |
| <b>Facilities and Equipment</b>       |                        |
| Equip Rental and Maintenance          | 3,868.68               |
| Property Insurance                    | 961.00                 |
| Rent & Parking                        | 7,724.61               |
| Telephone                             | <u>1,869.08</u>        |
| <b>Total Facilities and Equipment</b> | 14,423.37              |
| <b>General Office Expenses</b>        |                        |
| Bank Fees                             | 269.00                 |
| Credit Card Fees                      | 1,922.98               |
| Dues, Fees and Licenses               | 50.00                  |
| Insurance - Liability, D and O        | 187.34                 |
| Mileage                               | <u>274.00</u>          |
| <b>Total General Office Expenses</b>  | 2,703.32               |
| <b>Operations</b>                     |                        |
| Computer Supplies                     | 14.19                  |
| Consumable Supplies                   | 4,559.56               |
| Miscellaneous Expenses                | 542.36                 |
| Packaging and Supplies                | 308.26                 |
| Postage, Mailing Service              | <u>7,910.19</u>        |
| <b>Total Operations</b>               | 13,334.56              |
| <b>Payroll Expenses</b>               |                        |
| Employee Benefits                     | 2,766.58               |
| Other Labor                           | 450.00                 |
| Payroll Tax Liabilities               | 1,613.40               |
| Salary Expenses                       | <u>24,216.31</u>       |
| <b>Total Payroll Expenses</b>         | 29,046.29              |
| <b>Reconciliation Discrepancies</b>   | -0.01                  |
| <b>Uncleared Items</b>                | <u>-705.36</u>         |
| <b>Total Expense</b>                  | <u>60,999.21</u>       |
| <b>Net Income</b>                     | <u><u>6,449.57</u></u> |

# CONTRIBUTIONS LIST (GROUPS AND INTERGROUPS)

## Contributions to Fellowship-Wide Services by Groups and Intergroups

October 1, 2007 through January 17, 2008

### Intergroups by State or Country

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| <u>State or<br/>Country</u> | <u>Intergroup</u>                        | <u>Amount</u>   |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------------|
| AZ                          | Tucson, AZ., Area Intergroup of SLAA     | \$199           |
| CA                          | Augustine Fellowship Monterey CA         | \$28            |
|                             | LA Intergroup                            | \$6,273         |
|                             | Monterey, CA., Intergroup                | \$46            |
|                             | San Francisco/East Bay SLAA Intergroup   | \$800           |
|                             | Sacramento, CA., Intergroup              | \$334           |
| CO                          | Augustine Fellowship of Colorado Springs | \$122           |
| CT                          | Manchester, CT., Connecticut Intergroup  | \$75            |
| NE                          | Augustine Fellowship SLAA of Omaha       | \$256           |
| NY                          | Greater NY Area Intergroup               | \$200           |
| PA                          | Delaware Valley Intergroup               | \$1,100         |
|                             | Lehigh Valley, PA., Intergroup           | \$64            |
| TX                          | Houston Intergroup                       | \$1,000         |
| WA                          | Seattle Ingergroup                       | \$235           |
|                             | <b>Total Intergroup Contributions</b>    | <b>\$10,733</b> |

## Groups by State or Country

| <u>State or Country</u> | <u>Group</u>                              | <u>Amount</u> |
|-------------------------|---|---------------|
| <b>CA</b>               |   |               |
|                         | Berkeley, CA., Saturday                   | \$75          |
|                         | Berkeley, CA., Tuesday Morning            | \$237         |
|                         | Berkeley, CA., EURL Wed                   | \$42          |
|                         | Chico, CA., The Augustine Fellowship SLAA | \$150         |
|                         | East Bay, CA., POC SLAA Wed               | \$16          |
|                         | Encinitas CA., Sunday                     | \$100         |
|                         | Irvine, CA., SLAA Sunday                  | \$200         |
|                         | Los Angeles, CA., Thursday Farmers Mkt    | \$114         |
|                         | Oakland, CA., Fantasy & Intrigue          | \$423         |
|                         | Oakland, CA., Wednesday Men's             | \$24          |
|                         | Ontario, Canada, St. Augustine Friday Grp | \$137         |
|                         | Palo Alto, CA., Fri                       | \$125         |
|                         | Palo Alto, CA., Monday Night SLAA Step    | \$30          |
|                         | San Diego, CA., Monday                    | \$100         |
|                         | San Diego, CA., Wed                       | \$100         |
|                         | San Francisco, CA., Fantasy & Intrigue    | \$54          |
|                         | San Francisco, CA., Friday AM Meeting     | \$174         |
|                         | San Francisco, CA., Monday                | \$16          |
|                         | San Francisco, CA., Sat Night Uptown Mtg  | \$263         |
|                         | San Francisco, CA., Tuesday               | \$37          |
|                         | San Rafael, CA., Thursday                 | \$20          |
|                         | Santa Barbara, CA., Sunday Women's        | \$20          |
|                         | Santa Cruz, CA., Friday Anorexia          | \$20          |
|                         | Santa Cruz, CA., Mon Men's Freedom Group  | \$120         |
|                         | Santa Monica, CA., SLAA 12 Step           | \$60          |
|                         | Santa Rosa, CA., Wed Men's                | \$450         |
|                         | Walnut Creek, CA., Monday Night           | \$80          |
|                         | Westminster, CA., SLAA Meeting            | \$45          |
| <b>CT</b>               |   |               |
|                         | Colchester, CT., Tuesday SLAA             | \$100         |
|                         | Hartford, CT., Monday                     | \$56          |
|                         | Hartford, CT., Sunday Night Step Up       | \$15          |
|                         | New Haven, CT., Friday SLAA Group         | \$60          |
|                         | New Haven, CT., Monday Night              | \$76          |
|                         | Newtown, CT., Thursday                    | \$40          |
| <b>DC</b>               |   |               |
|                         | Washington, DC., SLAA Monday              | \$8           |
| <b>DE</b>               |   |               |
|                         | Rehoboth, DE., Thursday                   | \$32          |
|                         | Wilmington, DE., New Straw Group          | \$100         |

|           |  |       |
|-----------|--|-------|
| <b>FL</b> |  |       |
|           | Clearwater, FL., Friday                  | \$14  |
|           | Gainesville, FL., Augustine Fellowship   | \$32  |
|           | Lake Worth, FL., Monday                  | \$200 |
|           | Lake Worth, FL., Sat                     | \$185 |
|           | Lake Worth, FL., Wed                     | \$15  |
|           | Orlando, FL., Sunday Womens' Group       | \$80  |
|           | Sarasota, FL., SLAA                      | \$100 |
| <b>HI</b> |  |       |
|           | Honolulu, Hawaii SLAA Sat                | \$251 |
|           | Honolulu, Hawaii SLAA Wed & Thur         | \$559 |
| <b>IL</b> |  |       |
|           | Chicago, IL., St. Josaphat Saturday      | \$122 |
|           | Chicago, IL., Thursday SLAA Group        | \$50  |
|           | Parkridge, IL., Augustine Fellowship Mon | \$200 |
| <b>IN</b> |  |       |
|           | Indianapolis, IN., SLAA                  | \$8   |
| <b>KY</b> |  |       |
|           | Bellvue, KY., Saturday Morning SLAA      | \$40  |
| <b>MA</b> |  |       |
|           | Danver, MA., Tuesday Night               | \$65  |
|           | Haverhill, MA., Thursday Night           | \$50  |
|           | Newburyport, MA., Saturday               | \$180 |
|           | Newton, MA., Tuesday                     | \$200 |
|           | Provincetown, MA., SLAA Monday           | \$80  |
|           | Wareham, MA., Wed Night SLAA             | \$50  |
|           | Worcester, MA., Monday                   | \$10  |
|           | Worcester, MA., New Hope Weds            | \$24  |
|           | Worcester, MA., SLAA Friday Group        | \$200 |
| <b>MO</b> |  |       |
|           | Jefferson City, Mo., Monday              | \$25  |
| <b>NC</b> |  |       |
|           | Raleigh Friday Evening                   | \$41  |
| <b>NE</b> |  |       |
|           | Grand Island, NE., South Central NE SLAA | \$50  |
| <b>NH</b> |  |       |
|           | Concord, NH., Big Book Step Study Group  | \$18  |
|           | Salem, NH., Tuesday Night                | \$100 |
| <b>NM</b> |  |       |
|           | Albuquerque, NM., Women's Sat Noon SLAA  | \$24  |

|           |  |   |                 |
|-----------|--|---|-----------------|
| <b>NY</b> |  | Pittsburgh, PA., Sat                    | \$29            |
|           | East Hampton, Long Island, NY., Saturday |   | \$60            |
|           | Morristown, NY., SLAA Saturday           | Reading, PA., SLAA Wed                  | \$40            |
|           | Morristown, NY., SLAA Tuesday            | Reading, PA., Sunday Evening Lit Group  | \$125           |
|           | New York City, NY., Manhattan Sunday     | Scranton PA., Hope Group of SLAA        | \$100           |
|           | New York, NY Wed Men                     |   | \$994           |
|           | New York, NY., Friday                    | <b>TX</b>                               |                 |
|           | New York, NY., Sat Beg                   | Austin, TX., Augustine Fellowship Thurs | \$228           |
|           | New York, NY., SLAA Friday               | Houston, TX., Monday Night Women's Mtg  | \$34            |
|           | New York, NY., SLAA Tuesday              | Houston, TX., Saturday Women's Group    | \$42            |
|           | New York, NY., Tuesday                   | Monday Men's SLAA Group, Houston, TX.,  | \$121           |
|           | New York, NY., Tuesday Withdrawal        | Oaklawn, TX., Mens Group                | \$14            |
|           | New York, NY., Womens Sunday             | Sugarland, TX., Wed Sweet Serenity      | \$10            |
|           |  |   |                 |
| <b>OH</b> |  | <b>UT</b>                               |                 |
|           | Cincinnati, OH., Emotional Stability Sat | Salt Lake City, UT Rooted In Grace      | \$20            |
|           | Cincinnati, OH., Tuesday                 |   | \$43            |
|           | Cincinnati, OH., SLAA Monday Night       | <b>VA</b>                               |                 |
|           | Cleveland Heights, OH., Saturday         | Harrisonburg, VA., Friday               | \$50            |
|           | Cleveland, OH., Downtown Tuesday         |   | \$90            |
|           | Cleveland, OH., Friday Return to Dignity | <b>VT</b>                               |                 |
|           | Cleveland, OH., Thursday Morning         | Brattleboro, VT., Thursay Step-by-Step  | \$40            |
|           | Middleburg Heights, OH., Wed New Life    | Northampton, VT., Area Men's Group      | \$128           |
|           |  |   |                 |
| <b>PA</b> |  | <b>Spain</b>                            |                 |
|           | Ambler, PA., Wed Progress Not Perfection | Barcelona, Spain Wed                    | \$690           |
|           | Bethlehem, PA., Thursday                 |   | \$50            |
|           | Bryn Mawr Sunday Evening SLAA Group      | <b>Online</b>                           |                 |
|           | Chester, PA., Saturday Night SLAA Group  | Online Meeting                          | \$10            |
|           | Lafayette Hill, PA., Monday Night        |   | \$120           |
|           | New Cumberland, PA., Friday Evening      | <b>Unknown</b>                          |                 |
|           | Paoli PA., Sat Morning                   | Augustine Fellowship Mercy Group        | \$18            |
|           | Paoli PA., Wed Night                     | SLAA Anorexia Co-Ed Wed                 | \$33            |
|           | Philadelphia, PA., Sat                   |   | \$176           |
|           | Philadelphia, PA., New Leaf Monday       |   | \$80            |
|           | Pittsburgh, PA., 12 & 12 Mtg             |   | \$215           |
|           |  | <b>Total Group Contributions</b>        | <b>\$12,730</b> |

## **A report from the Chair of the FWS Board of Trustees.**

F.W.S. is like a boat that has survived a terrible storm. The rain and the wind have stopped, and the waves are no longer crashing over the boat and threatening to destroy it at any moment. But the boat is still full of water, and needs a whole lot of bailing and repair before it is fully seaworthy. The crew has their hands full with pumping the water out of the boat, keeping it from turning over as the waves roll by, and trying to make the repairs necessary to get underway once more. The survival of this little boat is not guaranteed, but we have made a lot of progress in the right direction, and we have great hopes for what is to come. (To read the rest of the report, click [here](#).)

Since our last quarterly newsletter in October 2007 we now have an accounting system that is set up right and provides timely and accurate financial reports at the click of a mouse. Seems basic, but we operated for a long time without one. Also, three months have passed since we made a drastic reduction in our staff in order to save money. That has worked out well. Despite the reduction in staff we have been able to handle literature orders promptly. And although phone and email response has been less than perfect, we are now a lot closer to solvency, as our quarterly financial statements reveal.

So what about moving this little boat forward? Bill Wilson, cofounder of Alcoholics Anonymous, wrote that the purpose of the central office of a 12-Step Fellowship should be "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." In other words, to paraphrase the AA Promises, the purpose of F.W.S. is "to do for groups and Intergroups what they cannot do for themselves." Thinking along these lines, a few months ago we decided to go to the groups and Intergroups of S.L.A.A. and ask a simple question: "What is the one thing that your group or Intergroup needs most from Fellowship-Wide Services." Needless to say, we got a lot more than "one thing" in answer to this question, and we hope we will hear many more responses yet, so please let us know your group's or Intergroup's answer to this question. Based on what we've heard so far, here is a summary of what might be thought of as a roadmap for F.W.S. priorities, based on feedback from the Fellowship:

1. More communication between F.W.S./BOT and the groups/Intergroups.
2. Timely fulfillment of literature orders and phone/email inquiries.
3. New literature and online tools that clearly convey the message of S.L.A.A.
4. Support for new groups and Intergroups.
5. A comprehensive strategy of Public Information and support for implementing that strategy at the local level.
6. Translations of S.L.A.A. literature into other languages.

Now, I don't want to pretend that the Board of Trustees has a comprehensive plan for how to fulfill all of these priorities perfectly, but I do want to let you know what F.W.S., the Board of Trustees, and the F.W.S. Conference are doing, or planning to do, or hoping to do, in each of these areas.

**More communication and accountability between F.W.S./BOT and the groups/Intergroups.** We are continuing with our online newsletter and the Board of Trustees Call Squad, which is a group of people who maintain direct contact with every Intergroup on about a monthly basis. If your Intergroup doesn't have such a contact, please let us know right away. If there are things you want to see in the newsletter, let us know. In addition, we are working to undo what many people perceive as a history of the Board of Trustees taking unilateral action on major issues without consulting the Fellowship through the F.W.S. Conference. Last year at the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) we consulted with the Conference about changes to what is now called our Prudent Reserve Fund. Based on the input we got from the Conference we made changes that we feel reflect a Fellowship-Wide group conscience. At this year's ABM we intend to discuss the issue of the maximum allowable contribution to F.W.S. In the past the Board has raised this maximum without consulting the Fellowship through the Conference, and this has upset many people. On this very important issue we want to make sure that we have a truly "Fellowship-Wide" group conscience so that we can put behind us any divisions that have arisen over this issue. If you would like to help with this project, please let us know.

**Timely fulfillment of literature orders and phone/email inquiries.** With limited staff resources it is very difficult to improve in this area. Literature orders are the number one priority of the F.W.S. staff. The Board of Trustees would like to increase the staff of the office so that the phone can be answered consistently and people can get email responses from the office in a timely manner. The simple fact of the matter is that we need more money if we are going to hire more staff. I can't say it any clearer than that. In the absence of funding for additional staff, the Board Public Relations Committee is working with the F.W.S. General Manager to improve upon the Frequently Asked Questions on our website to try to provide more thorough responses to common inquiries without additional staff resources. If you would like to help with this project please let us know.

**New literature and online tools that clearly convey the message of S.L.A.A.** One of the most exciting things currently happening in S.L.A.A. is that the Conference Steps and Traditions Committee is putting together a new book on the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions of S.L.A.A. If you haven't heard about this project, please go to [www.slaafws.org/submit1212](http://www.slaafws.org/submit1212) and check out the opportunity to contribute in writing to the development of this book. It will give addicts a strong new tool for sobriety and service. The book will take a long time, and in the meantime the Board Public Relations Committee is working on a major overhaul of the F.W.S. website so that the message of S.L.A.A. will be much more readily available online, and so that individuals who want to get sober, start new meetings, and start new Intergroups will find much more support through the website. Our vision for this project is that when an addict comes to our website they should find all of the resources they need to get sober, whether they have meetings in their area or not, and to start a new meeting if there are none where they live. If you would like to get involved in this project, please let us know.

**Support for new groups and Intergroups.** As mentioned above, we want our website to become a much more powerful tool for people who want to start new meetings, and for people who want to start new Intergroups. What to do and what to expect in the process of starting a new meeting or Intergroup will be carefully explained, based on successful experience of current members. In addition to that we are planning to create a pair of moderated online discussion forums, one for people who are starting new meetings, the other for people who are starting new Intergroups. These forums will allow members to ask questions and get feedback from experienced members and from others who are wrestling with the same questions. These forums will be carefully moderated so that they are safe and anonymous places for people to get practical help. Our hope is that once they are set up, experienced S.L.A.A. members will participate in responding to and participating in the discussion on the forums. If you are interested in getting involved with any of these online projects, please let us know.

**A comprehensive strategy of Public Information and support for implementing that strategy at the local level.** This is an area where we are currently very much lacking. To help people start new meetings in places where there currently are no meetings it will be necessary to help them figure out how to get in touch with addicts in their area. Currently S.L.A.A. has no comprehensive strategy for how to do that, but we intend to learn from the successful experience of S.L.A.A. Intergroups and other 12-Step Fellowships and put together a comprehensive strategy for local Public Information to support the formation of new meetings. If you are interested in helping with this project, please let us know.

**Translations of S.L.A.A. literature into other languages.** The Board Finance & Operating Committee has identified Spanish as the language for which translations are most needed, primarily because there are S.L.A.A. meetings forming in a number of Spanish speaking countries but very little has been translated. A project to translate the S.L.A.A. Basic Text into Spanish is underway. In addition we have received requests for translations into French, and there are other languages that will require translations as S.L.A.A. grows. We currently have no comprehensive strategy for developing translations or for navigating the complicated rules of international copyrights. If you are interested in helping out with this difficult set of issues, and particularly if you have either legal skills or translation skills, please let us know.

There is more going on that I could tell you about, but eventually even the most indefatigably garrulous must admit that it is time to stop talking (or writing). I could tell you about how the Board Governance & Nominating Committee is exploring the possibility of S.L.A.A. adopting the AA 12-Concepts for World Service, or how that same committee is exploring the possibility of establishing a mid-year in-person meeting of the Board of Trustees so that the Trustees can work together more closely, or how the Board Public Relations Committee is working on a plan to establish a literature creation fund together with a new proposal for how literature can be created more effectively, or how the Board Finance & Operating Committee is working on a comprehensive set of controls for overseeing the office operations more effectively. All of this is underway, but I have dinner to cook, and you probably have a meeting to get to, so until another issue of the newsletter, please stay sober, please stay in touch with us here at F.W.S., and please let us know what you can do to support F.W.S. with your time, talent, and treasure. The success of the S.L.A.A. program depends on you.

In service,  
Dan A.  
Chairperson, F.W.S. Board of Trustees.

### **Bob F., BOT Member.**

My name is Bob F. I am a new member of the BOT (Board of Trustees) but a member of S.L.A.A. since 1986. I have been sober from all bottom line addictive behavior since October 1991. I have served at all levels in S.L.A.A. at the group, local, and international levels. I was the editor of the Journal for four years from 1999 to 2000. I was my intergroup's delegate to the ABM/ABC (Annual Business Meeting/Annual Business Conference) for five terms. After seven years in service at the local level I decided it was time to volunteer to do service at the international level again. I placed my name in nomination for an open Board seat, was elected, and here I am.

Currently I serve on two BOT committees, BFOC (Board Finance and Operating Committee) and BGNC (Board Governance and Nominating Committee). I am the chairperson of the BGNC. I am the Board liaison to the MRC (Members Retention Committee), though I have not yet been able to attend one of their teleconferences, I will be on their next call. I also serve (again not at the level I would hope) on the CCC (Conference Charter Committee). The CCC is the committee charged with overseeing and facilitating the ABM/ABC. You will find more information about these committees in this newsletter under [Committee Reports](#).

Let me tell you a little about me. I am 59 years old, married, with four children and 5 grandchildren and a sixth on the way. I live just outside of Omaha, Nebraska. I was born in Omaha, moved to Seattle with my parents, and returned with them to Omaha two days after my 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. I have lived in and around Omaha ever since. My bottom line is any sex outside of my marriage. In my 21 years in S.L.A.A. I have yet to hear someone at a meeting disclose a behavior that I haven't tried, or at the least, thought about.

Like the other BOT members, service in SLAA has been very important for me. However, I discovered that attendance at meetings and doing service were not enough to keep me sober. After my relapse in 1991 I was shown a way through the Steps that resulted in the spiritual awakening promised in our Twelfth Step. As a result it has been very important for me to carry that message, the spiritual awakening, to sex and love addicts (both in S.L.A.A. and out) who still suffer.

The question I hear most from S.L.A.A. members is, "What is the Board of Trustees and what do they do?"

The following is from the Manual of the Board of Trustees of the Augustine Fellowship. The section is titled "Board of Trustees Orientation."

## What is the BOT?

The BOT is comprised of nine persons who have chosen and been chosen to serve the corporation known as The Augustine Fellowship, Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, Fellowship-Wide Services, Inc. The only requirement that BOT members who are also S.L.A.A. members must meet is to have three years of continuous sobriety from self-defined bottom line behavior(s); for non-S.L.A.A. BOT members, the only requirement is a contribution to the mission of S.L.A.A. Although these are the only express requirements, a commitment to service is also necessary. A BOT term is for three years, staggered so that there are three vacancies each year. The corporation has the IRS status of a 501(c)3: being on the BOT is a volunteer position. A BOT year generally starts and ends during the Annual Business Meeting (ABM), which is usually during the summer. The fiscal year begins October 1st.

The BOT has a unique role. It is the guardian of the fellowship in legal, financial, and ethical matters as outlined in the Traditions and the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the United States. It is the business branch of the fellowship. Therefore, the BOT sets up and reviews policies that establish responsible practices in the three areas above. In addition, the BOT is responsible for communicating with Conference members, Intergroups, and Lone Groups around issues such as the roles, activities and needs of the BOT and the ways in which it provides service.

Since the role of the BOT is based on the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of S.L.A.A., BOT members provide leadership in a manner similar to how a pastor, rabbi, or priest serves and leads a constituency. This blend of a Twelve Step/Twelve Tradition foundation and a business orientation makes functioning on the BOT different from serving as a delegate, on a Conference committee, or at the local level. A different "hat" must be worn on the BOT than in a recovery meeting. Operating in this environment can take adjustments, and communicating these operational differences to Conference and local members is an important and ongoing responsibility.

To remind BOT members of this unique orientation, the following is read at the beginning of each meeting:

*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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.*

The entire Board meets for three hours via teleconference every other month. Besides these meetings each Trustee is a member of one or two Board committees, and usually is a member of one or two Conference Committees. [Please see the Committee reports in this newsletter.]

As many of you know the Fellowship has been struggling with financial issues for several years. The current Board of Trustees is working with the FWS (Fellowship Wide Services) office to set a realistic budget and stay within that budget. This means cutting some services and shortening office hours. We have trimmed the staff from three full-time employees to one full-time and two part-time employees. We are looking at literature prices, cost of medallions, cheaper mailing services, moving to smaller, less costly office space, etc. We will do everything in our power to



provide the very best service we can with the funds you provide. You, the members, are S.L.A.A. The FWS office is not S.L.A.A. The BOT is not S.L.A.A.

Like the old Smokey the Bear quote, "Only you can prevent forest fires." Only you can fund the services S.L.A.A. needs. Only you can make it possible to carry our unique message of hope to countless sex and love addicts, still crying in the dark because they have never even heard the name Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous.

Carrying our message is more than money. It is commitment. It is making certain your group's doors are open when a newcomer shows up for the first time. It is taking extra time before and after meetings to sit down and talk with that newcomer, telling him or her your story, giving them your name and phone number and inviting them to call at any time if they are in danger of acting out.

"It is easy to let up on the spiritual program of action and rest on our laurels. We are headed for trouble if we do, for [sex and love addiction] is a subtle foe." Alcoholics Anonymous pg. 84. So conversely it must be difficult not to let up on our spiritual program. It takes effort on our part. I do my level best to carry our message to newcomers and to those in our program who have not yet truly found our message of hope contained in our Twelfth Step; a spiritual awakening as THE RESULT of these Steps.

It is this message of recovery that led me into service at the local level for many years and has led me back into service now at the international level. If others work our program of action, Steps Three through Twelve, they also will have a spiritual awakening, spiritual experience, psychic change, personality change, (all four describe the same phenomenon) sufficient to recover from the disease of sex and love addiction. They too will find they can not only stay sober; but stay sober and also be happy.

If you have not found sobriety and happiness please find a sponsor who understands and has worked the Twelve Steps of our program and get into action right away. I believe your life depends on it.

In service,

Bob F.

## **Liz D., BOT Member**

My name is Liz D. and I am a recovering sex and love addict. I joined the Board of Trustees in August of 2007 (see my letter of introduction in the Fall Newsletter at [www.slaafws.org](http://www.slaafws.org)).

In this submission to the newsletter I was asked to share what I think the goals are for the Board, the Conference, FWS and SLAA as a whole and also to tell you about what service as a Board member has meant to me and my recovery.

I believe SLAA as a whole is meant to "live" in service to Tradition 5, carrying the message to the addict who still suffers, through an active practice of the way of life embodied in the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. That said, I believe the Board, FWS, and the Conference each have important "primary purposes" in successfully supporting the fellowship as a whole carry our message. For me, the conference is the voice of the group conscience of the fellowship at large and the Annual Business Meeting of the Conference is a place where the communication necessary to keep the fellowship in service to our mission happens. I believe Fellowship Wide Services exists to provide whatever services are necessary to serve Tradition 5 that cannot and/or should not be carried out by an individual group and/or intergroup – literature publication and sales, legal protection of the organization as a whole, operational support to all conference committees, operational management of the Annual Business Meeting, and maintenance of the fellowship wide website are a few things that come to mind. I think of the Board as the Conference's delegates to oversee the work of Fellowship Wide Services in a manner consistent with the Steps and Traditions. I also

believe that the Board and FWS serve as an initial point of contact/representative to people from the world outside of SLAA inquiring about SLAA. I believe the Board and the Conference come together to be the body who consider and protect "matters effecting SLAA as a whole" as referred to in Tradition 4.

How can we make these ideas a reality? Where are we with actualizing these goals? As part of a practice of humility – given that I am such a new Board member, I believe I do not know and do not yet feel ready to say how I think we can better live in service to Tradition 5. What I can comment on is my goals for myself. For my first year of board service these include: gaining a better understanding of the structure and practices of the Board of Trustees through active participation and questioning, offering what experience, strength and hope I feel is appropriate at any given time, and seeking guidance from my Higher Power about what my purpose is in service to the fellowship as a Board Member and the power to carry that guidance out.

A short word about BOT and Conference service – my life is infinitely better due to the service I have been allowed to give and the people whose recoveries I've connected to as a result of doing service together. I cannot say enough how nourishing and satisfying service work within the Conference and the Board have been for me and how much both have contributed to living sober one day a time. One Saturday morning I was at a meeting and I heard a woman say that in the spiritual world the word for giving and receiving are the same thing – I experience that in my SLAA service.

Thank you for allowing me to be your trusted servant.

### **Christopher D., BOT Member.**

I'm Chris and I'm recovering from sex and love addiction. I have been a grateful, sober member of S.L.A.A. since 1991 and of A.A. since 1978.

I am finishing my fourth and final year on the S.L.A.A. Board of Trustees, but service for me started as soon as I entered S.L.A.A. This service has included work at the group, Intergroup, and, as now, the international service levels. I learned in A.A. that the most effective, and perhaps only, way to stay sober was to be of service. I know that when I was new, part of me hoped that if I did service, somehow the pain of withdrawal would decrease. I did feel better after a period of time.

There are several reasons I do service now. First, I get to give back a bit and hopefully help another sick and suffering person become sane through the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. More importantly, service helps to keep me connected to the program. If I have an upcoming service commitment, the idea of acting out seems further removed. That's been very helpful.

A question about service has been asked: what do the Conference, Conference Committees, Board of Trustees, and Fellowship-Wide Services do and what are their goals? A full answer is impossible in this article. However, in broad terms, these entities work together and individually to pass on the message of hope to the sick and suffering sex and love addict. Needless to say, it takes a lot of people to write and publish the S.L.A.A. Basic Text, pamphlets, F.W.S. Newsletter, and to create, produce, and sell merchandise such as tokens and CDs. Where this gets tricky is determining the responsibility of each of these entities and how they specifically fulfill the 12<sup>th</sup> Step and 5<sup>th</sup> Tradition.

The Conference consists of Conference members from around the world who attend and participate in the Annual Business Meeting (ABM). Decisions are made at the ABM that affects the Fellowship as a whole. Conference members include delegates representing specific S.L.A.A. groups, F.W.S. staff, the *Journal* editor, and Trustees. To make this system workable, each delegate is a member of Conference Committees. Conference Committees meet via conference calls throughout the year, working to achieve the goals set at the ABM.

Every non-profit organization like S.L.A.A. is required by law to have a Board of Trustees (BOT). The S.L.A.A. BOT is made up of S.L.A.A. members and non-members (who have a strong belief in and understanding of S.L.A.A.). There can be nine BOT members, but it is rare that all BOT spots are filled. In addition to attending the ABM, the BOT meets approximately eight times per year via conference calls for three hours to discuss and vote on the business of the Fellowship. Furthermore, each BOT member is a member of a BOT committee which meets separately by conference call once or twice a month. Lots of additional communication occurs between the eight teleconferences and BOT committee meetings.

Fellowship-Wide Services (F.W.S.) is an office located in San Antonio, TX (formerly Norwood, MA), which is where our General Manager and staff work. These are the only paid employees of the Fellowship. The office has many responsibilities, one of which is selling literature and merchandise. F.W.S. staff also help some Conference and BOT committees with their work, depending on the staff's availability.

As stated above, the broad goal of the Conference, Conference Committees, BOT, and F.W.S. is to bring the message of hope to the sick and suffering sex and love addict. That message was brought to me and is being brought to others on a daily basis. How that can be best accomplished is through continued personal work on the Twelve Steps and continued following of the Twelve Traditions, to the best of all of our abilities.

My time on the BOT has included moving the F.W.S. office from Norwood, MA, to San Antonio, TX, several changes in staff, dealing with low contributions from members, and communication challenges. I have felt fear, shame, and resentment while working as a BOT member. I have also felt loved, respected, and extremely grateful. Although it has been stressful and very time-consuming, I have not acted out while on the BOT and I have learned a lot about myself. My career has even expanded a bit as a result of what I learned about myself while on the BOT.

I encourage anyone who is serious about getting through withdrawal and developing a sane life to consider service in S.L.A.A. Most important, if you have questions about the S.L.A.A. service structure, invest in your recovery enough to ASK THOSE QUESTIONS and get involved! Asking questions about the S.L.A.A. service structure is also a form of service. I'm not speaking as an expert. I just know that service has worked for me since I crawled through the doors of S.L.A.A.

## **Stephen S., BOT member.**

My name is Stephen and I'm a sex and love addict. I've been sober since March 21, 1995 and a member of the BOT since May of 2006. My home is in Pittsburgh, PA where I have been active in my home group (which I co-founded) and local Intergroup. I attended my first ABM this past year in San Antonio and was truly invigorated by being with such an amazing group of people. I currently serve as Chair of the Board Public Relations committee and am Trustee liaison to the Conference Prison Outreach and Literature Committees.

My experience on the Board has been overwhelmingly positive. It has been humbling to work with such intelligent people who are so committed to helping our Fellowship grow. Their knowledge of the Steps and Traditions and the thoughtful ways in which they apply them have been inspiring to me. Our Board has been through some very difficult times and it is always thrilling to end a BOT call and reflect on just how HP has moved through our group conscience.

Service work has been a large part of my program since I got sober. It works! Please consider enriching our Fellowship and your personal Program through giving back to S.L.A.A. in service.

## **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Board Finance and Operating Committee,**

Report to the Fellowship (12/31/2007)

Under the By-Laws of our Fellowship, the Board Finance & Operating Committee "shall have general responsibilities for the daily activities of the Corporation." We work closely with the General Manager of Fellowship-Wide Services on matters related to the office budget, money management, expenditure oversight, financial audit, risk management, human resources, leases, equipment, bookstore operations, prioritization and other such responsibilities.

Currently, the Committee's membership includes three board members, Bob F., Rico J. and Richard C. (Chair), and two non-board members, Roger R. and Bob M. Generally, we meet biweekly for 90-minute meetings. We welcome Bob F. as our newest Committee member.

In the final quarter of calendar year 2007, our Committee presented the FY2008 budget, closely monitored the office cash flow, discussed copyright and licensing usage for literature sold abroad. To balance the FWS budget, our Committee considered both cost cutting and revenue enhancing measures. Reluctantly, we approved the termination of the Marketing & Outreach Coordinator position. Shipping, telephone and property lease expenses are the current focus for further substantial reduction. Our Committee continues to urge the board to develop plans to increase revenues to the FWS office.

### **Board Governance and Nominating Committee**

The following is an excerpt from the *Manual of the Board of Trustees of the Augustine Fellowship*:

*Scope of Responsibility: The BOT Governance & Nominating Committee focuses on the internal activities and procedures of the BOT to insure its long-term effectiveness.*

- The BOT Governance & Nominating Committee determines the need for new Trustees, what qualifications are desirable and then recruits desirable candidates, functioning as a nominating committee by presenting candidates to the Conference and/or BOT. It facilitates the nomination, appointment, and/or election processes and also takes the lead in succession planning and issues related to BOT terms.
- It reviews the BOT's functions and effectiveness, assisting the BOT Chair, as needed, to manage the annual BOT self-assessment process.
- It recommends internal policies and/or procedures, as necessary.
- It designs and sets up the orientation of new BOT members as well as making sure new members are fully integrated, both functionally and socially.
- It makes recommendations to the BOT for policies regarding responses to inquiries on the Twelve Steps and Traditions and provides assistance, as needed, to the [General Manager] in formulating responses to such inquiries.
- It provides guidance to the [General Manager] on the implementation and/or interpretation of policies adopted by the BOT.
- It functions as a resource to the [General Manager] in connection with the Annual Business Conference and facilitates the implementation of Conference direction.

The BGNC currently has five members:

Bob F. Chair

Dan A.

Liz D.

And two non-board members,

Matt S. and

Rita H.

We have identified several good board candidates for the 2008 ABM.

We have spent time on each of our conference call meetings discussing the adoption of A.A.'s *Twelve Concepts for World Service* to the S.L.A.A. service structure. Our recommendation is to form a Board subcommittee to study the effect on current operations if adoption is achieved. We believe that the adoption of the Twelve Concepts is an important issue and should be done as soon as possible.

We have discussed holding a mid-year board meeting in January. We believe will be very beneficial to conduct the Board's business. However, taking into consideration the issue of funding, we have put this on hold until such time in the future that funding for this meeting is available and the best use of then current FWS. funds.

We are looking toward the next Annual Business Conference.

In service,

Bob F.  
Chairperson  
Board Governance and Nominating Committee

## **Board Public Relations Committee**

The Board Public Relations Committee (BPRC) is comprised of Board Members, Stephen S., chair, and Chris D., non-BOT members, Deb W. (BOT alum), Steve S (Philly), Beth S. the FWS webmaster, and Marguerite J.

The BPRC focuses on matters relating to oral or written communications emanating from FWS. It sets policies, liaisons with the BOT and acts as a consultation resource to the General Manager on publication of Conference-approved literature, on public relations issues including coordination of media opportunities and the speakers bureau, communication with entities outside of S.L.A.A., communication within S.L.A.A., including Intergroups, the Conference, and individual members, and is a resource to the General Manager in connection with recovery conventions.

Our efforts to do this work since this ABM have been focused on moving and redesigning the FWS website including setting up a new store. Members who have submitted changes and postings have been pleased by the speed with which these items have appeared on the web. Additionally work has begun on a new section of the site that will help people get sober in areas where there are no meetings. We are in the process of updating the FAQ page on the site so that members and non-members can get quick answers to their questions without having to take FWS staff time. One of our future projects is the rebuilding of our speaker's bureau and helping publicize this summer's Recovery Convention in Tampa, Florida.

If there is any way the BPRC can help you communicate more effectively with FWS or the BOT, please drop me a line and I'll see what we can do to help.

Yours in service,  
Stephen S.  
BPRC Chair

## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS

### CAC

Conference Anorexia Committee

Any and all members of SLAA are welcome to join the committee and/or one or more of its subcommittees.

We encourage participation by both delegates and non delegate members of the fellowship.

You may contact us at [anorexia@slaafws.org](mailto:anorexia@slaafws.org) or 323 467-3868 with questions or in response to any of the following information.

CAC Solutions Pamphlet Subcommittee is working on new literature to supplement the 1992 Anorexia Pamphlet.

We invite anyone interested in keeping up with our draft literature and/or CAC activity to ask to be placed on our "Friends Roster" for occasional email announcements and dialogue.

We have tiered our email communication(s) so that anyone may opt-in at any level of interest.

For any of the above contact us at [anorexia@slaafws.org](mailto:anorexia@slaafws.org).

Website Subcommittee - needs members to help draft material to be placed on the FWS Web Site.

Email Subcommittee - Reads and responds to all emails received pertaining to anorexia or refers them to the proper people who are in a position to be helpful. We could use members who are interested in supporting other members or each other in their recovery through use of email and telephone. These could be long distance sponsorship style relationships, but other styles of supporting relationships are also encouraged.

CAC 'Friends' Roster - We have started an email list we call 'Friends' of the CAC. Any member of the SLAA fellowship can become a member of this roster by volunteering to be on the list. The CAC, it's subcommittees and other committees and subcommittees can send announcements and invitations to do volunteer service to the members of this roster. This can include serving on subcommittees, giving feedback on drafts of writing projects and other volunteer activities. We encourage other Conference Committee members and other fellowship members to sign up for this list to keep up with important CAC activities.

Stories of recovery of anorexics - We are planning to write stories of recovery of anorexics. This plan includes partnering a person who is willing to share their story of recovery with a person who has writing skills. The two can then work like a team with one functioning kind of like a ghost writer or editor and supporting the person who is writing the story. We also plan to make suggestions for story content and help the writers flesh out the stories so that we will have a collection of quality stories that cover a large variety of aspects of recovery. We are developing a template for suggested story content. People interested in writing their story and also people interested in helping another person write their story are welcome to volunteer at any time. They can volunteer by contacting the FWS office or emailing to [anorexia@slaafws.org](mailto:anorexia@slaafws.org), or calling Ron G. at 323 467-3868.

Report submitted, by Ron G., CAC Chair

### CLC

Conference Literature Committee

Good People in Recovery -

The Conference Literature Committee's goal for 2008 is to make new, pertinent literature available to the fellowship and the newcomer. There are many aspects to our dis-ease and helping to produce and assist other authors in refining newly developed is regular work for the committee. New literature in the pipeline includes pamphlets on "People of Color", "Obsession", and "Tools of Recovery". Another long-term project is a comprehensive index to the SLAA Basic Text. Final proof-reading is now underway.

Some members of the Conference Literature Committee find that doing service work has really helped their own sobriety. The committee uses newsgroups and other online writing tools that allow

geographically separated members to jointly author literature in near real-time. New members from around the world are welcomed throughout the year. Please send an email stating your interests to [leonslaa@swbell.net](mailto:leonslaa@swbell.net). We look forward to hearing from you. Although you may not be interested in participating, please pass this on - spread the word.

## CPIC

Conference Public Information Committee  
The Library Project

In the winter of 2007, the Conference Public Information Committee was looking for an activity that we could manage and would have strong leverage for the fellowship. With some internet research, we learned that our basic text was not available in most libraries, even in major metropolitan areas. These included Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York City, and my home city of Toronto. I conducted a pilot in Toronto, contacting the Collection Development Department of the Toronto Public Library system, and succeeded in getting six copies into circulation. We donated one, and they bought five! Let's set a goal of placing the basic SLAA text in every library in the world (one library at a time). You can help by asking your group or Intergroup to donate one or more copies of our basic text to your local library.

Bruce H.  
CPIC Chair

## CSTC

Conference Steps and Traditions Committee

Mission:

The practice of the SLAA Steps and an understanding of the Traditions are critical to recovery from sex and love addiction. As such, the mission of the Conference Steps and Traditions Committee is to provide individuals and the fellowship as a whole, with resources to deepen their understanding of the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions.

Currently, the committee accomplishes this by:

1. Assisting the Fellowship-Wide Services (FWS) office in responding to inquiries regarding the interpretation and application of the Steps and Traditions, and
2. Contributing to the creation of literature pertaining to the Steps and Traditions.

So far this year, we've considered two real-time Traditions issues via email and telephone conference and provided written responses to the inquirers regarding our thoughts on how the Traditions might apply to the situation as they described it. As well, we have considered a draft piece of literature in a similar way and provided a written response to the writer's of that document.

And, we continue to work on the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions of SLAA. Our goal this year is to collect as many sharing sheets from fellowship as we can and to develop a request for proposals so that those who might like to write and/or edit this piece of literature might apply to do so. Please see the FWS website: [www.slaafws.org](http://www.slaafws.org) for more details on submitting your experience, strength and hope on the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions.

Co-Chairs: Ava M. and Liz D.

## LMS

### Leadership Mentoring Subcommittee (of the CCC)

The Leadership Mentoring Subcommittee is a new subcommittee of the CCC (Conference Charter Committee) that is-looking for new members. Experience is not necessary. Newcomers are welcome.

Goals include:

Promote non-delegates, former-delegates, and other volunteers to do service work on Conference Committees.

Encourage specialization on this and other Conference Committees-so people can serve in their area of interest and skill, e.g., administrative duties, communication, IT (technical), writing, and mentoring.

Develop guidelines for leadership on this Subcommittee and other Conference Committees, taking into account experience, abilities, and leadership performance.

This Subcommittee will mentor and train future chairs, subcommittee chairs and others who wish to gain knowledge and experience before being elected to leadership roles. This Subcommittee's members will be available to leaders and members of subcommittees without channeling all communication through the chairs of the full committees.

The idea is to provide new volunteers to the Conference Committee service environment with additional resources for learning about opportunities to serve on Conference Committees and Subcommittees.

We will devise ways to reach out to and include members who do not use the internet.

We are interested in both people with time, experience, and institutional memory, and also people with very little experience at the Conference level. We think that people without Conference-level experience will help us by asking relevant questions which we can address, and they can also help us make our communication more clear and complete to others without Conference experience. We also need new participants to help us learn to communicate what newcomers need to know.

The Leadership Mentoring Subcommittee is organized with two tiers.

Tier 1—A small group of leaders that exchange emails frequently and teleconference when needed, and,

Tier 2—A roster of additional members who are contacted for feedback on ideas, but are not included in all drafts of brainstorming emails.

This larger group also informally represents the members of the fellowship whom we hope to serve. On both tiers, we need old timers with experience and newcomers who will ask relevant questions. We also need newcomers with Internet Technology (IT) skills.

You can volunteer to participate on the first or second tier or invite another member of SLAA to join either tier. Please feel free to give anyone my name, Ron G., 323 467-3868, Ron777ggg@gmail.com to contact temporarily until we get another contact system set up. Anyone can also write to us at

Augustine Fellowship

P. O. Box 7403

West Palm Beach, FL 33405-7403,

or contact us through the FWS office.

Report submitted by Ron G., Chair, LMS (CCC Leadership Mentoring Subcommittee.)



## **MRC**

### Members Retention Committee

Our current official responsibility as a committee is to determine why long-timers leave or stay in the program and offer support. From time to time this is a theme we discuss, but work on this was completed by several surveys of the Fellowship several years ago. Our focus has shifted from determining the answer to why people stay or leave to providing concrete tools for people to stay. We are working on three major projects in pursuit of our goals.

1) Step Chips: The Twelve Steps describe a spiritual process. We struggle with them, discover them, work them, study them, use them, and ultimately live them. Our goal is to create Step Chips as physical reminders of our spiritual practice. FWS has also created a fund to support their production. Currently the first three Step Chips have been produced. To make a contribution to the Step Chip Fund please contact FWS in San Antonio.

2) Sponsorship Workbook: The workbook will provide a comprehensive tool for sponsors and sponsees, a foundation to use for applying the principles of the Twelve Steps to our daily life. We want to cover sponsorship issues as they relate to anorexia, sex and love addiction offering the widest possible expression of our Fellowships experience, strength, and hope.

3) Stories Project: Our goal is to collect long-timers' written or recorded experience, strength, and hope. We are also interested in gathering stories on sponsorship and want to assist other Conference Committees in the collection of other stories such as anorexia.

Like other committees we are beginning to utilize newsgroups for communication and other online writing tools. If you have an interest in any of our projects or are a long-timer and wish to speak with other long-timers, please feel free to contact the Members Retention Committee via e-mail. Send your e-mail to me, Brian R at [brianr7777@gmail.com](mailto:brianr7777@gmail.com).

Maybe you feel like a long-timer, but you are not sure. If this is the case, don't let your uncertainty about your status as a long-timer stop you from contacting us. We would like to hear from you.

Brian R.

## **POC**

### Prison Outreach Article for FWS Winter Newsletter:

The POC has been re-organizing how inmate pen-pal letters are distributed. Five geographic regions in the U.S. now each have a contact person to receive letters from FWS and distribute them to volunteers in their local Intergroup.

We are also brainstorming ways to reach those who have been recently released from prison. Also working on a tracking system to organize the ever increasing amount of letters we receive. Revising the "Do's and Dont's" literature is also in the works.

Derek O. is now Co-Chair of POC with Dave McM. We have 5 members.