



## 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)

September 2009

# Welcome to the Fall Issue of the Fellowship-Wide Services Newsletter!

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### **BOT Chair's Report**

16 August 2009

Greetings Friends,

For the 25<sup>th</sup> year, the S.L.A.A. **Annual Business Conference/Meeting 2009** met in East Parrish, Florida July 14-17<sup>th</sup> (Tues-Fri). There were 42 voting members with 34 delegates representing 25 Intergroups world-wide including Ireland, France, UK, Switzerland/German Intergroup and Canada (Montreal and Toronto). Seventeen of the delegates were coming for the first time.

The Local Planning Committee (LPC), chaired by Jack and Danette S., ensured personal shuttle service to/from the Tampa Bay airport by local members, Dusty and Gino, to name a few. In addition, the LPC provided volunteers to support FWS staff, CCC chair and the BOT chair with many other ABC/M activities including a Friday night Beach Party and BBQ at world-famous DeSoto Beach. The chicken was first-class not to forget the gigantic S.L.A.A. cake prepared by Rick.

For recovery, there were two international speakers on Wednesday night followed by an entertaining raffle of S.L.A.A. items from the online store. Everyone was sure their ticket would be drawn. The live auction Thursday night was also lots of fun and included past BOT members, Deb W. and Marcella M., as Vanna 1 and Vanna 2. A total of \$6,497 was generated by this form of self-support through our own contributions; and, is an important way to supplement the deficit this event incurs each year. Details of ABC/M costs will be provided in the near future if not this edition of the newsletter.

Besides the fun and fellowship there was much work to be done with 16 items on the BMIS (ABM agenda), of which 14 were discussed. Three motions were passed including the text for Romantic Obsession, creation of the Conference Translation Committee, and unanimous approval of the technical changes/revision of the S.L.A.A. By-Laws. The BOT reviews all motions passed at the ABM for further action at its August 15<sup>th</sup> call. Deb W. was the ABM Minutes record keeper and has already provided a draft for the reviewers. You may find a copy in this newsletter or soon after.

There were four important presentations the first day of the ABC/M. In the morning was the New Delegate Orientation presented by past BOT member Roger R. and new BOT member Kim B. This session helped delegates learn the process of doing Conference business.

After lunch and the first General Assembly session, the General Manager (GM), Linda Hamilton, and the BFOC chair, Richard C., provided an update on F.W.S. financial reports, including the submission of the 2006-08 IRS filings in June. (You will find the General Manager's report and the 8-month Profit/Loss Financial Comparisons for Oct-May09 with Oct-May08 in this issue as well the actual monies spent compared to the approved budget of 2008-09 for the same time period.) The GM also handed out to each Conference member the 4 new Step chips (4-7), 3 new wrist bands with S.L.A.A. slogans, and samples of two clay chips. In addition, the availability of high quality wall posters of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions were on display.

For a second year in a row, an A.A. Twelve Concepts presentation was given by two new BOT members, Kim B. and Tom F. It is hoped within a few years that the Conference will adapt and adopt the short form of the A.A. Concepts.

The first day ended with the fourth Conference gathering of the now annual *Getting to Know the BOT and FWS*. Six board members and two FWS staff, Linda Hamilton-GM and Richard Gallegos-

Administrative Assistant, described their roles and Conference members had their questions or concerns addressed by the BOT and FWS office staff.

Recognitions included Stephen S. (from Pittsburgh) outgoing BOT member on the board since March 2006. He was presented an S.L.A.A. Basic Text with a black leather Tampa Bay IRC08 cover that the Conference members signed. In addition, the BOT surprised the GM, Linda Hamilton, and FWS staff by expressing their appreciation with gift certificates to pamper themselves at local San Antonio spas, theaters, or cheesecake factory.

One of the legal requirements of the ABM is the election of new BOT members and this was conducted on the last morning of the ABM. It is with pleasure that I announce the election of Leon C. of Dallas TX to the BOT and confirmation of BOT appointees, Tom K. of Tampa Bay FL, Kim B. of Boston MA, and Chris D. of San Diego CA at this year's ABM. Tom has served on the BGNC as a non-board member since January 2009 and on June 6<sup>th</sup> was appointed to the BOT during the BOT call. Leon and Tom have written articles introducing themselves in this newsletter. Chris D. is in his 6<sup>th</sup> year as a BOT member and is the most senior BOT member with Richard C. in his 5<sup>th</sup> year. Both provide the institutional memory and continuity as only BOT members who have been around a few years can do. In addition, their legal skill set has been a most welcome asset. Bob F. and I are in our third years.

Currently there are 7 BOT members as listed below:

**BOT Elected (E)/Appointed (A)/Confirmed (C)'ABC/M year-year ending**

- i. Chris D., San Diego, CA (A'08-2010)-confirmed 2009
- ii. Bob F., Omaha, NE (E'07-2010)
- iii. Rita H., Montreal, QC Canada (C'08-2010)
  
- iv. Richard C., Boston, MA (E'08-2011)
- v. Kim B., Boston, MA (A-Mar09-2011) confirmed 2009
- vi. Tom F., Tampa Bay, FL (A-Jun09-2011) confirmed 2009
  
- vii. Leon C., Dallas, TX (E'09-2012)
- viii. OPEN 2012
- ix. OPEN 2012

There are two open BOT positions. If you or someone you know has three continuous years of self-defined sobriety and are interested in world-wide service please contact us at <http://www.slaafws.org/contact/serviceinfo>.

The BOT had 3-days of in-person meetings prior to the ABC/M09. The first day included reports and general discussion. Day two involved BOT Self-Assessment facilitated by Jack S. in the morning. In the afternoon, the BOT reviewed a brainstorming spreadsheet with 106 items of things to do from last year; these were ranked according to short-, mid-, and long-term projects and assigned to one of the three BOT committees (BFOC, BGNC, BPRC) or the FWS office/BOT chair. Day three morning continued business from Day one and the afternoon included a Confidential meeting to discuss the annual General Manager evaluation.

I confess that after seven straight days of business/service, that driving back to Montreal took 4 days vs. 3; and another 4 days to decompress and withdraw from all the energy and enthusiasm of the ABM. Getting to my local S.L.A.A. meetings and reconnecting with sponsors and sponsees provided the grounding I needed to reenter normal activities. Having replenished my mind, body and spirit I am willing and ready to serve another year as BOT chair and GM supervisor. To be honest this is a 30hr/week job and I have indicated I am willing to do for one more year.

The priorities to name a few for this year are:

- Continuing to stabilize office and BOT operations
- Proceeding with legal and financial filings to IRS, State of Massachusetts and Texas; plus accountability and transparency to the Fellowship
- Update the BOT Manual, BOT Motions and Policies, as well as BOT Orientation
- Ensure copyrights and trademarks are current and/or registered
- Update policies for translations of S.L.A.A. copyrighted literature and licensing agreements
- Develop an Intergroup/Lone Group database and registration with F.W.S. Office
- Review BOT policies on fundraising and contributions
- Educating the Fellowship about the spirit of the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition
- ABC/M09 Financial details
- Annual GM Evaluation

This year's ABC/M theme was Tradition 7 and stressed that we are self-supporting through our own contributions. Contributions take many forms and include monies, time, and talent; the latter two known as service. In the spirit of participation no contribution is too small to practice this Tradition. Please take a moment to visit the F.W.S. online link [http://store.slaafws.org/merchant.mvc?Screen=CTGY&Store\\_Code=SOS&Category\\_Code=GC8](http://store.slaafws.org/merchant.mvc?Screen=CTGY&Store_Code=SOS&Category_Code=GC8) to contribute to the stabilization and growth of S.L.A.A. And to all those who have given so freely of what they have received this past year let me express on behalf of the BOT and F.W.S. Inc. deepest gratitude.

Grateful to serve,  
Rita H.  
BOT Chair

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### **The General Manager's Report**

Hello All,

The F.W.S. Office and staff have worked diligently to improve office operations and services as well as live within the budget of \$285,000 approved by the BOT on November 1, 2008. Attached are the 8-month financial reports for October 1, 2008-May 30, 2009 with comparison to the previous year. In addition, the budget for the fiscal year 2008-09 and the actuals are provided. These were discussed during the F.W.S. Financial Report presentation at the 2009 Annual Business Meeting and will be included in the 2009 ABM minutes.

The staff includes Ashley, Adrianna, and Richard. Ashley and Adrianna have been with the office for over 2 years and work an average of 20 and 10 hours/week, respectively. Richard started June 2008

and works 30-35 hrs/week. They have proven to be a cohesive team and the resulting team spirit has made the production of *the Journal*, CDs and tapes, the four *Journal* booklets, and preparation for the ABC/M 2009 a much easier job.

Some highlights of accomplishments this year are:

- ❖ Filing of the IRS reports for 2006, 2007, 2008.
- ❖ Improved response to emails, phone calls and letters.
- ❖ A new printer to save on printing costs. However this required all pamphlet files to be transferred from film to a PDF format. Bob F., BOT and BFOC member has been an invaluable asset in sharing his expertise in this area.
- ❖ The purchase of a multi-CD duplicator cutting down the time on CD duplication in-house.
- ❖ Four new Step chips, 4, 5, 6 and 7 are available as of this ABC/M and will be included in the catalogue as well as on the F.W.S. website store.
- ❖ Three new bracelets/wrist bands have been added to our inventory
  - Gold- "Progress Not Perfection."
  - Light blue- "Let Go Let God."
  - Yellow -"One Day At A Time."
- ❖ Introduction of the new "Twelve Step" and "Twelve Tradition" posters that roll up easily for convenient transport.
- ❖ We are also excited about the possibility of clay chips for length of sobriety less than one year. A sample will be provided to delegates and we believe everyone will like the look and texture of the new clay chips. A decision will need to be made as the cost of these is higher than the plastic ones currently used.
- ❖ Weekly staff meetings that include discussions on the Twelve Steps and Traditions; and, over the last 3 months we have been attending Al-Anon meetings.

Ongoing items that still need to be addressed include:

- Timely response to emails, phone calls and letters
- Improved monthly financial reporting and accountability
- Filing Annual Reports to State of Massachusetts
- Filing for Sales Tax Exemption in the States of Texas and Massachusetts
- Working with the German Intergroup representative regarding the website
- UK printer
- New payment gateway
- Online check processing gateway
- Foreign pamphlet conversion and production

- Inventory
- Package tracking project
- Reports for *the Journal*
- SOP's for Office Operations

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda Hamilton*, General Manager  
 The Augustine Fellowship,  
 Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous,  
 Fellowship-Wide Services, Inc.

**The Augustine Fellowship, S.L.A.A., F.W.S.  
 Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual  
 October 2008 through May 2009**

	Oct08-May09	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
<b>Income</b>				
<b>ABC/M Income</b>				
ABC/M & IRC Fundraiser Income	0.00	3,333.32	-3,333.32	0.0%
ABC/M Registration	12,040.00	13,333.32	-1,293.32	90.3%
ABC/M TEF Income	2,250.00	3,333.32	-1,083.32	67.5%
<b>Total ABC/M Income</b>	<b>14,290.00</b>	<b>19,999.96</b>	<b>-5,709.96</b>	<b>71.5%</b>
<b>Contribution Income- Campaign</b>				
Groups	2,207.72			
Individual	3,997.75			
<b>Total Contribution Income- Campaign</b>	<b>6,205.47</b>			
<b>Contribution Income- Regular</b>				
Groups	39,959.70	35,108.32	4,851.38	113.8%
Individuals	25,016.69	20,426.64	4,590.05	122.5%
Intergroups	9,332.77	8,298.32	1,034.45	112.5%
<b>Total Contribution Income- Regular</b>	<b>74,309.16</b>	<b>63,833.28</b>	<b>10,475.88</b>	<b>116.4%</b>
<b>Investments</b>				
Dividend, Interest (Securities)	8,136.13	3,200.00	4,936.13	254.3%
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>8,136.13</b>	<b>3,200.00</b>	<b>4,936.13</b>	<b>254.3%</b>
<b>Operations Income</b>				
Booklets	2,510.00	2,960.00	-450.00	84.8%
Bookmarks	255.00	340.00	-85.00	75.0%
Books	44,676.35	59,400.00	-14,723.65	75.2%
CD's/Tapes	4,874.05	5,500.00	-625.95	88.6%
Medallions/Chips	10,336.25	11,000.00	-663.75	94.0%
Other Product Sales	5,133.00			
Pamphlets	27,275.95	30,800.00	-3,524.05	88.6%
Postage	15,738.23	14,300.00	1,438.23	110.1%
Starter Kits	486.00			
The Journal	2,121.00	666.64	1,454.36	318.2%
Operations Income – Other	-3,829.72			
<b>Total Operations Income</b>	<b>109,576.11</b>	<b>124,966.64</b>	<b>-15,390.53</b>	<b>87.7%</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>212,516.87</b>	<b>211,999.88</b>	<b>516.99</b>	<b>100.2%</b>
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>				
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>				
Booklets	53.68	592.00	-538.32	9.1%
Bookmarks	12.70	68.00	-55.30	18.7%
Books	6,475.55	11,880.00	-5,404.45	54.5%

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CDs/Tapes	529.43	1,100.00	-570.57	48.1%
Medallions/Chips	3,176.20	2,200.00	976.20	144.4%
Other Products	2,600.90			
Pamphlets	5,608.99	6,160.00	-551.01	91.1%
Starter Kits	66.50			
Cost of Goods Sold - Other	504.16			
<b>Total Cost of Goods Sold</b>	<b>19,028.11</b>	<b>22,000.00</b>	<b>-2,971.89</b>	<b>86.5%</b>
<b>Total COGS</b>	<b>19,028.11</b>	<b>22,000.00</b>	<b>-2,971.89</b>	<b>86.5%</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>193,488.76</b>	<b>189,999.88</b>	<b>3,488.88</b>	<b>101.8%</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
<b><u>BOT</u></b>				
BOT Hotel	428.00			
BOT Other	139.00			
BOT Travel	785.67			
<b>Total BOT</b>	<b>1,352.67</b>			
<b><u>BOT ABM</u></b>				
BOT ABM Travel	1,047.07			
<b>Total BOT ABM</b>	<b>1,047.07</b>			
<b><u>Conference Expenses</u></b>				
ABC/M Other	1,683.09	16,666.64	-14,983.55	10.1%
ABM Hotel 640.00				
Conference Committee Expenses	0.00	3,217.32	-3,217.32	0.0%
POC Literature	0.00	333.32	-333.32	0.0%
Travel Equalization Fund	4,950.00	3,333.32	1,616.68	148.5%
Conference Expenses - Other 0.00				
<b>Total Conference Expenses</b>	<b>7,273.09</b>	<b>23,550.60</b>	<b>-16,277.51</b>	<b>30.9%</b>
<b><u>Contract Services</u></b>				
Accounting Fees	1,647.00	7,666.64	-6,019.64	21.5%
Legal Fees	3,125.00	3,333.32	-208.32	93.8%
Outside Contract Services	658.74			
Contract Services - Other	0.00	333.32	-333.32	0.0%
<b>Total Contract Services</b>	<b>5,430.74</b>	<b>11,333.28</b>	<b>-5,902.54</b>	<b>47.9%</b>
<b><u>Facilities and Equipment</u></b>				
Equip Rental and Maintenance	15,152.75	10,333.32	4,819.43	146.6%
Equipment Purchases	460.00			
Rent & Parking	20,468.20	20,096.00	372.20	101.9%
Telephone	5,702.69	5,000.00	702.69	114.1%
<b>Total Facilities and Equipment</b>	<b>41,783.64</b>	<b>35,429.32</b>	<b>6,354.32</b>	<b>117.9%</b>
<b><u>General Office Expenses</u></b>				
Bank Fees	245.00	733.32	-488.32	33.4%
Credit Card Fees	5,500.53	3,626.64	1,873.89	151.7%
Dues, Fees and Licenses	105.00			
Insurance - Liability, D and O	730.64	2,000.00	-1,269.36	36.5%
Mileage 2,261.52				
Staff Development	0.00	333.32	-333.32	0.0%
<b>Total General Office Expenses</b>	<b>8,842.69</b>	<b>6,693.28</b>	<b>2,149.41</b>	<b>132.1%</b>
<b><u>Operations</u></b>				
12 & I2	0.00	1,333.32	-1,333.32	0.0%
Computer Supplies	1,724.69			
Consumable Supplies	8,283.61	4,666.64	3,616.97	177.5%
Miscellaneous Expenses	0.00	833.32	-833.32	0.0%
Packaging and Supplies	1,599.19			
Postage, Mailing Service	24,000.68	16,320.00	7,680.68	147.1%
Preservation Fund Transfer	0.00	8,000.00	-8,000.00	0.0%
Printing and Copying	276.72			
The Journal Printing & Paper	795.38			
Translation	0.00	666.64	-666.64	0.0%
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>36,680.27</b>	<b>31,819.9 2</b>	<b>4,860.35</b>	<b>115.3%</b>
<b><u>Payroll Expenses</u></b>				
Employee Benefits	6,840.72	8,000.00	-1,159.28	85.5%
Other Labor	0.00	2,666.64	-2,666.64	0.0%
Payroll Tax Liabilities	6,039.02	5,840.00	199.02	103.4%
Salary Expenses	74,649.33	64,666.64	9,982.69	115.4%
<b>Total Payroll Expenses</b>	<b>87,529.07</b>	<b>81,173.28</b>	<b>6,355.79</b>	<b>107.8%</b>
<b>Reconciliation Discrepancies</b>	<b>-0.02</b>			

Total Expense	189,939.22	189,999.68	-60.46	100.0%
Net Income	3,549.54	0.20	3,549.34	1,774,770.0%

**The Augustine Fellowship, S.L.A.A., F.W.S.  
Profit & Loss  
May 2009**

<b>Income</b>	
<u>ABC/M Income</u>	
ABC/M Registration	5,550.00
ABC/M TEF Income	900.00
<b>Total ABC/M Income</b>	6,450.00
<u>Contribution Income- Campaign</u>	
Groups	34.00
Individual	3,050.00
<b>Total Contribution Income- Campaign</b>	3,084.00
<u>Contribution Income- Regular</u>	
Groups	2,182.82
Individuals	2,261.00
Intergroups	2,776.24
<b>Total Contribution Income- Regular</b>	7,220.06
<u>Investments</u>	
Dividend, Interest (Securities)	2,673.77
<b>Total Investments</b>	2,673.77
<u>Operations Income</u>	
Booklets	105.00
Books	3,174.57
CD's/Tapes	428.95
Medallions/Chips	723.75
Other Product Sales	596.00
Pamphlets	2,337.65
Postage	1,374.95
Starter Kits	18.00
The Journal	163.00
Operations Income – Other	-170.25
<b>Total Operations Income</b>	8,751.62
<b>Total Income</b>	28,179.45
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>	
<u>Cost of Goods Sold</u>	
Booklets	2.30
Books	382.67
CDs/Tapes	35.04
Medallions/Chips	223.16
Other Products	245.47
Pamphlets	442.60
Starter Kits	1.59
Cost of Goods Sold - Other	38.41
<b>Total Cost of Goods Sold</b>	1,371.24
<b>Total COGS</b>	1,371.24
<b>Gross Profit</b>	26,808.21
<b>Expense</b>	
<u>Conference Expenses</u>	
ABC/M Other	1,683.09
<b>Total Conference Expenses</b>	1,683.09
<u>Contract Services</u>	
Accounting Fees	90.00
Legal Fees	1,125.00
Outside Contract Services	169.09
<b>Total Contract Services</b>	1,384.09
<u>Facilities and Equipment</u>	



Equip Rental and Maintenance	1,116.50
Rent & Parking	2,667.86
Telephone	746.60
<b>Total Facilities and Equipment</b>	<b>4,530.96</b>
<b><u>General Office Expenses</u></b>	
Credit Card Fees	639.48
Insurance - Liability, D and O	91.33
Mileage	324.80
<b>Total General Office Expenses</b>	<b>1,055.61</b>
<b><u>Operations</u></b>	
Computer Supplies	42.47
Consumable Supplies	1,414.12
Packaging and Supplies	298.50
Postage, Mailing Service	2,195.80
The Journal Printing & Paper	82.13
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>4,033.02</b>
<b><u>Payroll Expenses</u></b>	
Employee Benefits	855.09
Payroll Tax Liabilities	664.68
Salary Expenses	9,436.16
<b>Total Payroll Expenses</b>	<b>10,955.93</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>23,642.70</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>3,165.51</b>

**The Augustine Fellowship, S.L.A.A., F.W.S.  
Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison  
October 2008 through May 2009**

	Oct '08 - May 09	Oct '07 - May 08	\$ Change	% Change
<b>Income</b>				
<b><u>ABC/M Income</u></b>				
ABC/M Registration	12,040.00	15,103.91	-3,063.91	-20.3%
ABC/M TEF Income	2,250.00	0.00	2,250.00	100.0%
<b>Total ABC/M Income</b>	<b>14,290.00</b>	<b>15,103.91</b>	<b>-813.91</b>	<b>-5.4%</b>
<b><u>Contribution Income- Campaign</u></b>				
Groups	2,207.72	1,135.33	1,072.39	94.5%
Individual	3,997.75	1,802.65	2,195.10	121.8%
Intergroups	0.00	25.00	-25.00	-100.0%
<b>Total Contribution Income- Campaign</b>	<b>6,205.47</b>	<b>2,962.98</b>	<b>3,242.49</b>	<b>109.4%</b>
<b><u>Contribution Income- Regular</u></b>				
Groups	39,959.70	34,177.93	5,781.77	16.9%
Individuals	25,016.69	28,457.17	-3,440.48	-12.1%
Intergroups	9,332.77	11,498.97	-2,166.20	-18.8%
<b>Total Contribution Income- Regular</b>	<b>74,309.16</b>	<b>74,134.07</b>	<b>175.09</b>	<b>0.2%</b>
<b><u>Investments</u></b>				
Dividend, Interest (Securities)	8,136.13	0.00	8,136.13	100.0%
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>8,136.13</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>8,136.13</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b><u>Operations Income</u></b>				
Booklets	2,510.00	2,725.00	-215.00	-7.9%
Bookmarks	255.00	161.00	94.00	58.4%
Books	44,676.35	56,612.93	-11,936.58	-21.1%
CD's/Tapes	4,874.05	4,046.44	827.61	20.5%
Medallions/Chips	10,336.25	10,113.50	222.75	2.2%
Other Product Sales	5,133.00	3,254.50	1,878.50	57.7%
Pamphlets	27,275.95	28,856.20	-1,580.25	-5.5%
Postage	15,738.23	15,953.75	-215.52	-1.4%
Starter Kits	486.00	528.00	-42.00	-8.0%
The Journal	2,121.00	1,876.00	245.00	13.1%
Operations Income – Other	-3,829.72	-5,828.71	1,998.99	34.3%
<b>Total Operations Income</b>	<b>109,576.11</b>	<b>118,298.61</b>	<b>-8,722.50</b>	<b>-7.4%</b>
Uncategorized Income	0.00	-13.02	13.02	100.0%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>212,516.87</b>	<b>210,486.55</b>	<b>2,030.32</b>	<b>1.0%</b>

### **Meet Tom F., New Board of Trustee Member**

My name is Tom and I am a Sex and Love Addict. I am one of the newest Board members and will be serving as the chair of the Board Finance and Operating Committee (BFOC). I will also serve as a Board liaison to several Conference Committees. I am truly honored and blessed that I can serve the Fellowship in this capacity.

I came to S.L.A.A. in February of 2001. At my first meeting I realized for the first time in my life, what a broken individual I had become through acting out on my bottom line behaviors. I had basically lost everything; house, home, marriage, job, and self. In 1993, I started attending Al-Anon meetings. I learned a lot about Steps and Traditions, but never really worked a program (I was going to meetings because someone else had a problem, you see). Once I came to S.L.A.A., I knew exactly what I had to do – Surrender!

When I began my path to recovery, I started giving back to the Fellowship immediately as I worked my way through the Steps (several times). It started with “carrying the bag” and opening meetings that I attended in the Tampa Bay Area. In a short time, I was given the opportunity to produce the Newsletter for the Tampa Bay Intergroup. I served as Newsletter Editor for several years and became active in the Intergroup, working on the committee that put on the 2003 International Convention in Clearwater, FL. I then did 2 ½ terms as the Treasurer followed by becoming the Chair of the Intergroup. I have also served as ABM Delegate and have been on several Conference Committees. In December of 2008, I was asked to join the Board Governance and Nominating Committee (BGNC) as a Non-Board member. I was appointed to the Board on June 6th and was confirmed at the 2009 ABC/M. I am truly blessed to have worked with members who have served this Fellowship at all levels. Including my Sponsors’ ex-Sponsor (he passed away) who always would say “I came into the Fellowship looking for the expressway and found the service road.” From this, I was guided to the importance of giving back and was shown how this is a huge part of my recovery, and I am truly grateful for the second chance at life that I have been granted.

As I begin this next phase of service I have found, as always, there is much to learn. I am in gratitude and awe of the many men and women who I have met in this Fellowship and their commitment to carrying the message to the addict who still suffers. My hope is to help these members in their endeavors. There is much to do.

In service and gratitude,  
Tom F.  
Tampa Bay, Florida

*Editor’s Note: Tom F. also served as emcee for the live auction held at the 2009 ABM and helped to bring in several thousands of dollars for the FWS office. He also does a great “YMCA.”*

### **Meet Leon C., Newly Elected BOT member**

My name is Leon and I'm a sex and love addict. In June of 1989 my dad died unexpectedly and I could not say goodbye – just as I was incapable of saying goodbye to Mom before she died four years earlier. Those experiences are still painful for me - probably because right after the funeral, I began acting out day and night for two weeks. Most of that time was spent in compulsive masturbation and the depths of fantasy. That resulted in a trip to my MD because I had a bad rash and hives due to the physical and emotional stress. During this period of my life, my second marriage had already unraveled much like the first one – much like the other 26 relationships in my history. I knew something was terribly wrong with me. I had hit bottom.

A small voice inside of me said; "If this is what you want, then you better find out who you are first." I know now that was the voice of God. I was so desperate to find out what was wrong with me that I felt like my hair was on fire and I had to get help because I couldn't put out the fire by myself. I had thought about leaving this planet early, but it never was a real option. God led me to a spiritual advisor who led me to a therapist who gave me the phone number for S.L.A.A. When I walked into my first meeting on November 26, 1989, I was given a brief introduction to our Fellowship by a guy who told me some of his story before we rejoined the main meeting – his story wasn't anything like mine, but I knew I was home. I knew I was in the presence of God. I knew things were going to be alright. I got current and dumped my shame – then I broke down and sobbed. Since then, I've been to a lot of meetings.

When I started attending S.L.A.A. in North Texas, the meetings had only been going for about a year. For a while we co-sponsored each other because no one had very much time in recovery. I have been with my current sponsor for 13 years. I have been a sponsor for over 17 years – I currently work with three active sponsees.

Leading meetings led me to more service work. I was our Group Coordinator off and on for several terms. I was the treasurer for a while. I took meeting notes. I helped start our Intergroup. I attended my first ABM and IRC in 2006. I became active in the Literature, Steps and Traditions and Member Relations to the Board committees. I ended up as Chair of the Literature committee in late 2006 and served in that role until the ABM in July, 2009.

Before I retired, I had a 43 year career in Information Technology – spending most of that time in the field of management consulting and administration. I've written processes, national standards, and information security documents. I worked most of the time through committee and team management. I have also been a church organist and Director of Music for 35 years. I think I've learned a lot about working with volunteers.

I love our Fellowship very much – I am filled with gratitude for S.L.A.A. I love all the people at the meetings. I believe in giving back to the Fellowship what I so freely receive. The Fellowship saved my life. Service work means that I walk the walk of love. In service, I am learning how to put feet under the words "I love you." To that end, I hope and pray that all I learn in service will help me be a better husband-partner, Dad, Brother and Grandpa.

I live in Richardson, Texas with my wife-partner of 13 years – I attend my meetings and Pris attends her meetings – once a week we take our relationship to a meeting. We are becoming inter-dependent. Thank you for this opportunity to serve our Fellowship.

With gratitude for your support, and lots of unconditional love and support – yours in recovery – Leon C.

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### **BOT Committee Reports**

#### **Board Governance and Nominating Committee (BGNC)**

The BGNC is the committee of the Board of Trustees (BOT) that focuses on the internal policies and procedures of the BOT to further its long-term effectiveness. We handle items that regard the governing of the Board, the Board Committees and nomination-related activities.

BGNC has a task force working on reviewing the AA 12 concepts for revision/adoption by S.L.A.A. The Concepts task force was formed in January 2008 and is currently reviewing Concept X. Two BOT members of the BGNC presented the AA concepts at the ABC/M for attending delegates.

BGNC continued its activities to consider possible candidates for the Board as there are two openings for terms ending in 2012. The BGNC interviews and nominates S.L.A.A. member and non-member candidates for the BOT to fill the open positions. S.L.A.A. member candidates for the BOT must have 3 years continuous self-defined sobriety. Non-member BOT candidates ideally generally know and love the S.L.A.A. fellowship for how it has helped family/friends/clients. BGNC is awaiting information from other Board Committees regarding whether additional non-board members are needed to support Board Committee activities.

BGNC is reviewing their agenda from the past ABC/M year and items referred to BGNC as part of the in-person BOT meeting before the ABM. This information is being used to set the agenda and priorities for the upcoming 2009-2010 year.

*Kim B., Chair, Board Governance & Nominating Committee*

### **BOT PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE (BPRC) REPORT**

This committee has had its first meeting, held on Thursday, August 13, 2009 with members: Bob F. (chair), Chris D. (BOT), Steve T. (non-BOT member), and Deb W. (BAT).

These were the agenda items:

- Status of past, present, and future Public Information requests.
  - Documentary
  - Siren/Discovery Health Channel
- FWS Newsletter update
- Web Team report
- 2010-2011 IRC/ABM proposals update
- Update on Website Task Force and new content approval process.
- CDC Recommendations document
- Task Force to create PI suggestions for Meeting and IG starter kits.
- Adding personal stories to web content
- Tabled/Pending Items from 2008-09
- Policing Wikipedia's discussion of S.L.A.A.

This committee will meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 8:00pm Eastern.

## Conference Committee Reports and Announcements

### Anorexia 1-2-3 Project Announcement

#### THE ANOREXIA 1-2-3 PROJECT

#### *Sponsored by the Conference Anorexia Committee*

**The Anorexia 1-2-3 Project** is dedicated to creating a piece of recovery literature which focuses on anorexia and Steps 1, 2 and 3. This booklet will include members sharing their experience, strength and hope; meditations and discussion questions - all intended to enrich the anorectic recovery experience within SLAA. Upon completion of the booklet the subcommittee plans to create a meeting format that uses the booklet as a focal point.

#### **Share your unique experience on Step 2!**

- Materials for sexual, social and emotional anorexia recovery are in the development stage. We need your unique stories, lessons and growth to expand the available literature for anorexia recovery. Please share with us a most valuable resource - your experiences with Step 2 as an anorectic. The goal of this booklet is to focus on steps and solutions. How do you "work the program and not the problem" when applying Step 2 to your life?
- This draft has evolved quickly and is nearly 90% complete at this time. Special thanks go out to all who have contributed thus far!

Go to <http://www.slaafws.org/submit123Anorexia>

For more information or to receive a preview of this booklet for your personal recovery, contact: Ayana P. at <http://www.slaafws.org/contact/Conference+Anorexia+Committee>. The writing team would really like your feedback.

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#### AN INVITATION FROM THE HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS SUBCOMMITTEE

#### **7 TELEMEEETINGS –**

**September 12**

**October 10**

**November 14**

**January 9, 2010**

**February 13, 2010**

**March 13, 2010**

**April 10, 2010**

**Topic: Characteristics of Healthy Partners**

- September: Taking the Initiative Expressing care
- October: Working for Resolution on Problems
- November: Vulnerability
- January: Keeping the Focus on Yourself
- February: Remaining Engaged
- March: Nurturing
- April: Honesty

**JOIN US AS WE EXPLORE THESE RECOVERY ISSUES!**

These 7 one-hour teleconferences will be on Saturdays, at 9:00am Pacific / 12:00 PM Eastern / 6:00pm Europe. S.L.A.A. members may attend any or all meetings without RSVP. Access code for everyone is 225844#.

Call in numbers:

US: (712) 432-1600

Ireland: 0818 270 021

Austria: 0820 4000 1552

Italy: 848 390 156

Belgium: 070 35 9974

Netherlands: 0870 001 920

France: 0826 100 256

Spain: 902 886025

Germany: 01805 00 76 09

Switzerland: 0848 560 179 UK: 0870 35 204 74

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**A Conference Healthy Relationships Committee Project**

*Have you ever wished there was more S.L.A.A. literature about dating and relationships that felt hopeful...inspiring?*

*If so, you now have the opportunity to participate in the creation of conference-approved literature regarding this topic...*

The Conference Healthy Relationships Committee is seeking the experience, strength and hope (in written form) from those S.L.A.A. members currently in healthy relationships or who have experienced some success dating while in S.L.A.A. You don't need to be an expert, you only need to be willing to *share* your story. Please send your written share (3-6 paragraphs) to Sara S. at <http://www.slaafws.org/contact/HealthyRelationships> if you would like to submit a personal article about your experiences and gained wisdom. Your written contributions could be a part of new conference-approved literature. What a terrific way to be of service!

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**The Conference Diversity Committee (CDC) Report**

The CDC continues to work on of mission of:

- Representing and honoring the considerable diversity of patterns and forms of sex and love addiction inside and outside S.L.A.A.
- Honoring and helping diverse groups within S.L.A.A. get their recovery needs met in the Fellowship.
- Supporting groups in creating formats to carry the S.L.A.A. message to other sex and love addicts.
- Carrying the S.L.A.A. message to broader groups of people around the world.

We have a monthly conference calls at 8am PST, 11am EST, 5pm Central European Time on the third Saturday of the month. Our subcommittees are working on pamphlets on topics of diversity and working on making our fellowship a welcoming and accessible place for Sex and Love Addicts of all forms.

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### **Message from the Conference Internet Committee**

A warm hello to fellow-members in recovery from the Conference Internet Committee (CIC),  
The CIC welcomes any S.L.A.A. member to join and assist our Conference Internet Committee (or one of its Subcommittees). Even though our Mission Statement pertains to technical matters, we grow strong through a collaborative group conscience that requires members from all knowledge levels, including computer “newbies.” All are welcome to join us.

The CIC currently conducts its business via email and monthly teleconferences. The teleconferences are on the second Monday of every month at 6pm Pacific and 9pm Eastern. In August, Tim F. was re-elected as CIC Chair and Juanita J. was re-elected as CIC Vice-Chair.

We have three Subcommittees to accomplish more focused work in tandem with the business of the entire Conference Internet Committee. Any member may reach us from the S.L.A.A. Fellowship Wide Services website (<http://www.slaafws.org/committeecontacts>) to express interest in joining us or to pose questions or suggestions.

The CIC Review Subcommittee assists the Board Public Relations Committee (BPRC) with new FWS Website material.

The CIC Virtual Reality Group Outreach Subcommittee assists the Telemeeting Intergroup (founded November of 2008) and communicates with meetings that are not local face-to-face meetings. These “virtual” meetings are listed as telephone and online meetings at [www.localslaa.org](http://www.localslaa.org) – which provides a growing list of eleven telephone meetings for our worldwide Fellowship.

The CIC Technology Use Suggestions Subcommittee envisions writing suggestions for Conference Committees and members to make better use of free computer software and services to improve knowledge and efficiency. This particular Subcommittee welcomes any S.L.A.A. members to join without needing to participate at the entire Conference Internet Committee. Some potential Suggestions Papers may include: Improvements to Google Group suggestions (already in draft form); Drupal cross-training; Google Enterprise Products; Clarification between Google Group files and Google Documents; PDF printing; Benefits of Gmail as an email client; How to transmit very large files; FreeConferenceCall set-up and administration; Timezone/Daylight Time explanations; Google Calendar; File format of .docx to .doc; or other visions not already brainstormed.

Respectfully yours in service,

Tim F. on behalf of the Conference Internet Committee (CIC)  
<http://www.slaafws.org/contact/Conference+Internet+Committee/>

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### Conference Service Committee (CSC) Report

Statement of purpose: Conference Service Committee (CSC) is responsible for educating and increasing member commitment to service.

- The Conference Service Committee has five members and we are looking for more.
- Our current projects include a working developing draft for a pamphlet on Service Sponsorship.
- The LMS, Leadership Mentoring Subcommittee, focuses on helping any interested members of S.L.A.A. join a Conference Committee, subcommittee, or draft literature Writing Group.
- Anyone interested is invited to join the committee to work on any projects listed or new ones. We welcome new non-delegate members without experience. There is no sobriety requirement. Anyone can also join the 'Friends' of the CSC to receive emails to stay in the loop regarding CSC activities and join in whenever interested.
- The CSC also refers new non-delegate members of S.L.A.A. to other conference committees for service activities in an area of your interest. There is no sobriety requirement for service on conference committees.
- Please contact us at: <http://www.slaafws.org/contact/Conference+Service+Committee>. Non-delegate volunteers can also use the FWS Website to volunteer directly to a Conference Committee.
- Other possible projects for the next year include:
  - Revision of CSC Mission statement
  - Activation of teleconferences instructions
  - Suggestions to Chairs and members of Conference Committees for easy agendas and minutes
  - Continue work on the draft for a Service Sponsorship Pamphlet
  - Create a draft about suggestions for gathering a group conscience for Conference Committees, Intergroups, and other groups and meetings.
  - How can the Conference Service Committee (CSC) facilitate more participation in Conference Committee activities by members who do not use the Internet for Bottom Line reasons?

Respectfully submitted,

Ron G., CSC Chair <http://www.slaafws.org/contact/Conference+Service+Committee>



### **We Need Help!**

The Prison Outreach Committee needs "*Recovery Pen Pals.*"  
What holds most members back is the "*offender*" part.  
For this, we look to the Preamble which states:

We find a *common denominator* in our obsessive/compulsive patterns which renders any personal differences of sexual or gender orientation irrelevant.

I was lucky enough to have found S.L.A.A. in time  
or I would have been on the other side of the fence.  
Being a Recovery Pen Pal is more rewarding  
than words can say. And remember, Service  
keeps us Sober.

To help out contact us at <http://www.slaafws.org/contact/Conference+Prison+Outreach+Committee> or  
call: 210-828-7900

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### **Deadlines for F.W.S. Newsletter Submissions**

The deadlines for submitting F.W.S. Newsletter articles are:

November 15, 2009

February 14, 2010

May 16, 2010.

Articles can be submitted to Deb W., the FWS News editor at:

<http://www.slaafws.org/contact/FWS+Newsletter>

Please note: There is discussion on whether to publish personal email addresses and phone numbers in the newsletter. If you would like to weigh in, you can contact me. Until there is a decision, no personal emails or phone numbers will be published in the newsletter.

### **Sign Up Now for the FWS E-Bulletin**

You, too, can know all the latest news from FWS. Find out about sales and new items in the online store, holiday office closings and other special and time-sensitive FWS announcements by signing up to receive the *FWS E-Bulletin*. (This will be especially useful for those who are entrusted with ordering meeting supplies. The *E-Bulletin* will be used to let you know if the online store is experiencing difficulty or if the office will be closed thereby letting you anticipate delivery time on an order and saving you some aggravation—a *real serenity-saver!*)

Registering is quick and easy. Just go to [www.slaafws.org](http://www.slaafws.org) and locate the registration form under the changing "Latest News" banner. The *FWS E-Bulletin* will arrive in your inbox no more than once each week (and often less frequently). Use of the *E-Bulletin* will be solely for FWS purposes. The distribution list will not be used for any other purpose. Special note for *FWS Newsletter* subscribers: In accordance with the stated usage rules, the distribution list for the *FWS Newsletter* will not be used to create a distribution list for the *FWS E-Bulletin*, so if you want to stay in touch with FWS via the *E-Bulletin*, you must register separately.

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Become the Host for the  
35th S.L.A.A. Anniversary-  
2011 International Recovery Convention (IRC) and the  
2011 & 2012 Annual Business Conference/  
Meeting (ABC/M)

Here's what you need to do:

- Your Intergroup/group creates a proposal that includes the city, venue for the events, and costs.
- Deadline November 1, 2009
- For more information or to submit your proposal/bid contact Deb W. at <http://www.slaafws.org/contact/Board+Public+Relations+Committee>
- The S.L.A.A. Board of Trustees and the FWS Office will decide our next hosts.

**Highlight your town or city.**

**Share your local recovery with the world.**

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**An Update on the 2009 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) Minutes**

As the Chair of the BOT in her report had stated, the full minutes of the 2009 ABM are currently in the hands of the reviewers. The document has been sent to a panel of three reviewers for edits. Once the reviewers complete their review of the minutes, the record keeper will make the necessary changes and send the completed document to the webmaster for upload to the S.L.A.A. website.