



Fellowship-Wide Services Newsletter

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March 2009

Welcome to the Spring issue of the Fellowship-Wide Services Newsletter!

PLEASE TAKE A COPY TO YOUR MEETING!

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BOT Chair's Report

Greetings Friends,

It is three months that I have been the Chair of the Board of Trustees and much continues to happen. Liz D. resigned from the Board of Trustees (BOT) for medical reasons December 30th. She had been on the BOT since March 2007 and gave so much during her time with us. On behalf of the BOT I would like to express our deep felt gratitude for her service.

There are now 5 board members of which 2 have been serving since 2005 and one since 2004. This most certainly helps to provide continuity as I, your newest board member (appointed in March and confirmed in July 2008), continue the steep learning curve of the first year trustee. All members of the board have stepped up in their service positions so that all Conference Committees continue to have a BOT liaison and the three board committees have at least two board members in addition to non-board members. The Board Chairs Calls restarted in October with 3 calls to date. They meet monthly and are important in the shared leadership originally initiated by Liz D. as well as give a vehicle for regular communication between Board calls.

During November, I was interim supervisor to the General Manager of the F.W.S. Office and this position became official on January 4th. I meet by phone with Linda Hamilton, General Manager, on a weekly basis. I am impressed by the hard work and willingness of all the F.W.S. Staff to provide more prompt and timely services to the public and membership. I will be traveling to Texas from Montreal March 31st to April 9th to offer support to Linda and the Office as well as visit Austin for their Annual S.L.A.A. Fellowship Day on April 4th, and then visit the Dallas and Houston Intergroups. I look forward to that famous Texas welcome, southern hospitality and S.L.A.A. fellowship.

I was asked by the board to provide a list of my priorities for the rest of this Conference year and I share with you.

1. Preparing for the ABC/M 2009
 - a. Obtaining the ABM 08 Minutes
 - b. Reviewing BOT IFDs of ABM08 for motions ABM09
 - c. Updating the Conference Service Manual and Index of Motions
 - d. 3-day BOT meetings preparation that include
 - i. self-assessment
 - ii. priorities and planning (mid to long term goal setting) based on past 2 year spreadsheets
2. Shared Leadership with Board Chairs Calls
 - a. Short-term goals of board committees and BOT chair
 - b. Copyright and Trademark issues
 - c. Encouraging Contributions
3. CPA audit-financial statements for 2006-08 for US Treasury and annual report(s) to Secretary of Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Texas.
4. Stabilization of office operations continues as well as living within the budget-\$285,000- Hard to do with:
 - a. Need to hire a webmaster-about \$5,000
 - b. Hiring new secretarial staff for BOT calls and to type minutes of BOT ABM08 meetings plus ABM09-\$2,000
 - c. *the Journal* over budget by \$2,000
 - d. Step Chips 4 and 5 for ABC/M09 (\$1,000)
5. GM Supervision weekly calls and reporting to the BOT.
6. GM Performance Appraisal and Development Plan (last done May07).
7. The F.W.S. Website continues to be an active part of carrying the message and powerful communication tool for the Conference and Fellowship requiring formation of a Web Team for oversight.
8. Technical changes to the S.L.A.A. By-Laws.
9. Adaptation of the short form of the Concepts.

The BOT wanted you to know that there was concern about a website using the S.L.A.A. name without authorization and this was promptly taken down after discussion. In addition, some members of the program received an email from a publishing company on Christmas day that also was not in keeping with the principles of our program. We are assured this will not happen again.

Last, but definitely not least, you will find the Profit and Loss Statement for the past fiscal year, October 2007-September 200, in this issue of the **F.W.S. Newsletter**. On behalf of the BOT and F.W.S. Office I want to thank all those members, groups, Intergroups and fundraising activities that contributed close to \$125,000 towards the \$300,000 nearly balanced budget last year. If you have questions or comments do not hesitate to contact me at Rita_H@slaafws.org.

Grateful for your service and support,
Rita H., BOT chair 15 February 2009

BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMITTEE REPORTS
Board Finance and Operating Committee (BFOC)

Please refer to the last paragraph in the Board Chair's report for fiscal report.

Board Governance and Nominating Committee (BGNC)

BGNC members

Rita H.	BGNC chair (Nov'07)	Montreal, QC
Kim B.	non-board member (Aug'08)	Boston, MA
Stephen S.	BOT member (Jan'09)	Pittsburgh, PA
Tom F.	non-board member (Jan 26-Apr 30 th)	Tampa, FL

Meetings

Aug 25th
Sept 11 and 25th
Oct 9 and 23rd
Nov 6 and 20th
Dec 4 and 18th
Jan 9 and 26th

Next Meetings

Feb 16 and 27th
Mar 2 and 16th

Activities of BGNC

1. The BGNC is happy to welcome Stephen S. as a new board member since January 9th and Tom F., new non-board member as of January 26th to this board committee.
2. It is understood that normally the BOT chair does not chair a board committee. In this case Rita H. is chairing the BOT since Nov 16th and the BGNC since May 08. However, given the BOT short staff (down to 5 trustees at present) and for the sake of continuity Rita H. is chairing both. She has been a member of the BGNC since joining the BGNC as a non-board member in Nov 07.
3. BOT Candidate Recruiting and Nominations
 - a. BOT Candidate Recruiting is an ongoing activity of this board committee with announcements in the **FWS Newsletter, Conference Newsletter** and on the FWS Website.
 - b. Two written questionnaires have been requested.
 - c. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to be developed.
4. Board Committee membership
 - a. Non BOT membership on board committees continues with 3-month trial periods. Currently Service/Professional Resumes and sobriety requirements/length of time in the program are part of the screening. So far 40 names were received, 14 contacted and two have been approved by the BOT for membership on board committees.
 - b. Ex-officio members and voting privileges is another agenda item to be discussed.
5. Board Chairs Calls were held Oct 18th, Jan 3rd and 24th and have been reviewing Shared Leadership, Priorities and Planning, and copyright issues. The next call is Feb 21st. At the request of the Board Chairs short-term priorities for the BGNC will be added to the agenda.
6. Call Squad Oversight Team (CSOT) with BGNC involvement completed the end of November calls to Intergroups. Chantal C., chair, has taken a leave until April and Jenny D. has expressed a reluctance to continue as well leaving one member, myself, of four remaining. There will be a regrouping period as this committee struggles to regain momentum after the holidays and loss of members.
7. Concepts Task Force (CTF) has met Sept 28th, Oct 26th, Dec 14th and 28th, Jan 11th and 25th; and, continues to work on recommendations to BGNC and BOT. This committee is happy to welcome Bob F. back after a brief interlude away. Next calls Feb 8th and 22nd.
8. Discussions about how the BGNC facilitates questions about Traditions, changes to the By-Laws and BRS review of BOT motions to the Conference are also on the agenda.
9. Updating the BOT Motions as well as Policies and Guidelines Manuals is another project hopefully for this Conference year.

Respectfully submitted,
Rita H., BGNC chair

Board Public Relations Committee (BPRC) Report

The BPRC is comprised of BOT members Stephen S., chair, Chris D., Bob F., non-BOT members Deb W., Steve S (Philly), Steve T. (Florida until April 30) and Beth S, webmaster, ex-officio.

- Steve T was appointed to a 3-month trial period ending April 30.
- The BPRC has answered one Public Information request from the NY Intergroup re: open and closed meetings. The chair has been unable to verify the airing of a Weekend Today interview with Karma K. that was slated for the Fall, despite repeated attempts to do so. There is a potential opportunity upcoming with Danish documentary filmmaker, Pernille Rose Grønkjær. There has been no further communication from the Oprah Show.
- The webmaster provided us with interesting and informative statistics (See S.L.A.A.Website Hits 2008 article) about the FWS website usage.
- The Prison Outreach Committee has a budget of \$1,000/year for literature. Beth S. added a module to the online store so that they can buy literature more readily. If you or your Intergroup do any work with Prison Outreach, please pass this information along.
- The webmaster is in the process of creating an Intergroup and lone group location database. The committee has been discussing the relative merits of trying to maintain current local meeting information vs. asking each Intergroup for a link to their online meeting list. This seems to be the most practical solution since it eliminates the need for Intergroups to update their lists both at the local and national levels.
- The production of the FWS Newsletter is now running smoothly under Deb W.'s direction, after some initial bumps. This serves as a reminder to all that the deadline for committee reports to the FWS Newsletter is **May 17, 2009**.
- The BOT chair has requested that the BPRC handle any bids for the ABC/M and/or IRC before coming to the BOT. There are no proposals to date. The BPRC is considering sponsoring an Issue for Discussion (IFD) regarding the idea of holding the International Recovery Convention (IRC) every 5 years to correspond with the anniversary of the founding of the Fellowship.
- New web content! Now that the New Web Content Approval Process has been approved, we anticipate being able to move several pieces of content through the process rather quickly: 1) a document designed to help those who are trying to get sober in areas where no meetings currently exist organized around the 5 Major Resources of our Preamble; 2) a document that uses quotations from various 12 Step sources to explain the concepts of surrender and acceptance and the first three Steps; and 3) a document which details what one can expect when attending his/her first meeting. We are very pleased that we are finally able to get this content moving toward its intended use.
- The BPRC has been working to update and digitize the new meeting and new Intergroup starter packets.
- Future projects: soliciting members' stories to illustrate various aspects of recovery for the web.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen S.
BPRC Chair

F.W.S. Office Operations Report

1. Preparing information for BFOC sub-committee regarding financial reports, compliance, and auditing issues. Meeting with CPAs and asking questions to determine which CPA will best serve our needs and budget.
2. Posting and distributing the ABC/M 2009 information.
3. Completing comparison and financial reports for BFOC and the Spring **FWS Newsletter**.
4. We are contacting local printers to get bids for both the Basic Text and pamphlets. Found two printers and working with them to get best cost for the book and pamphlets. I am also working with our current printers to get the electronic version of both the book and pamphlets. We will need to order both the book and pamphlets pretty soon so this is high priority.
5. Meeting with webmaster and BOT chair about Website issues and procedures.
6. Contacted Dell to negotiate the buy out dollar amount when the current lease for computers expires as well as negotiating systems and cost.
7. The Office is auditing the UPS bills and USPS: Rates increased for both and need to make sure charged the correct shipping amount.
8. Working on system to organize emails and messages as well as a system to direct incoming emails to proper email addresses.
9. Preparing to submit group and intergroup contributions report for next **FWS Newsletter**.
10. Reviewing Office phone bill and looking into getting a new phone system which would better serve our needs and cut cost. I am working with 2 people and will be receiving bids.
11. I have contacted the leasing company to look into a smaller space if possible at a cheaper rent.
12. We will be doing a physical inventory the next couple of weeks.
13. Working with Rob about practices regarding the Conference Members/Participants Listing.
14. We are looking into the cost of medallions 21-25 years and Step chips 4 and 5. We have been receiving requests wanting to purchase these items. Also trying to get a different manufacturer; I have been in contact with A.A. and we might be able to use the same one. Looking into the possibility of producing a higher quality chip that would be made out of clay instead of plastic.
15. Discussing with local printers new projects such as Steps and Traditions posters and obtaining quotes on ***the Journal*** cover.

Richard and Ashley, the part-time staff in the Office, have all orders current. In their spare time they are working on production items, helping organize the office and preparing for a physical inventory. We are also trying to catch up any emails or messages that we have received. Messages are current.

Linda Hamilton, General Manager

February 14, 2009

The Augustine Fellowship, S.L.A.A., F.W.S.
Profit & Loss
October 2007 through September 2008

Income	
ABC/M Income	
ABC/M & IRC Fundraiser Income	14,642.44
ABC/M Registration	<u>27,287.91</u>
Total ABC/M Income	41,930.35
Contribution Income- Campaign	
Groups	1,856.34
Individual	2,763.65
Intergroups	<u>69.00</u>
Total Contribution Income- Campaign	4,688.99
Contribution Income- Regular	
Groups	50,905.98
Individuals	35,159.15
Intergroups 1	<u>9,285.90</u>
Total Contribution Income- Regular	105,351.03
Operations Income	
Booklets	4,250.00
Bookmarks	227.50
Books	85,146.44
CD's/Tapes	7,758.04
Medallions/Chips	16,164.75
Other Product Sales	5,819.80
Pamphlets	44,015.20
Postage	24,188.02
Starter Kits	858.00
The Journal	3,012.50
Operations Income – Other	<u>-9,523.32</u>
Total Operations Income	181,916.93
Uncategorized Income	<u>-13.02</u>
Total Income	333,874.28
Cost of Goods Sold	
Cost of Goods Sold	
Booklets	316.78
Bookmarks	1,339.18
Books	12,490.10
CDs/Tapes	2,850.02
Medallions/Chips	5,363.66
Other Products	5,099.81
Pamphlets	9,067.55
Starter Kits	120.91
Cost of Goods Sold - Other	<u>809.83</u>
Total Cost of Goods Sold	37,457.84
Total COGS	37,457.84
Gross Profit	296,416.44
Expense	
BOT	
BOT Hotel	346.74
BOT Meals	457.18
BOT Other	54.14
BOT Travel	<u>188.96</u>
Total BOT	1,047.02
BOT ABM	
BOT ABM Hotel	2,160.00
BOT ABM Meals	382.16
BOT ABM Travel	<u>1,934.01</u>
Total BOT ABM	4,476.17
Conference Expenses	
ABC/M Other	8,348.69
ABM Hotel	15,871.41
Conference Committee Expenses	<u>546.21</u>
Total Conference Expenses	24,766.31
Contract Services	
Accounting Fees	1,083.00
Outside Contract Services	<u>600.74</u>
Total Contract Services	1,683.74
Facilities and Equipment	
Equip Rental and Maintenance	16,702.98
Property Insurance	1,922.00

Rent & Parking	29,630.63
Telephone	<u>6,588.02</u>
Total Facilities and Equipment	54,843.63
General Office Expenses	
Bank Fees	1,128.49
Credit Card Fees	7,596.73
Dues, Fees and Licenses	1,011.77
Insurance - Liability, D and O	1,044.62
Mileage	2,604.57
Profit/Loss	<u>44.90</u>
Total General Office Expenses	13,431.08
Operations	
Computer Supplies	3,755.11
Consumable Supplies	14,488.61
Miscellaneous Expenses	542.36
Packaging and Supplies	3,327.77
Postage, Mailing Service	34,662.50
The Journal Postage	177.67
The Journal Printing & Paper	<u>579.31</u>
Total Operations	57,533.33
Payroll Expenses	
Employee Benefits	9,924.61
Other Labor	538.75
Payroll Tax Liabilities	7,955.67
Salary Expenses	<u>96,279.31</u>
Total Payroll Expenses	114,698.34
Reconciliation Discrepancies	26,777.31
Uncategorized Expenses	0.00
Uncleared Items	<u>-705.36</u>
Total Expense	298,551.57
Net Income	-2,135.13

Contributions List

**Group and Intergroup
Contributions to Fellowship-Wide Services
by State or Country**

October 1- December 31, 2008

<u>State or Country</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Amount</u>
AR	Little Rock, AR., Cntrl AR Augustine Fell	100.00
AZ	Prescott, AZ., Monday Night	52.81
AZ	Scottsdale, AZ., SWAN	50.00
CA	Berkeley, CA., Friday AM 12 Step Princip	80.00
CA	Berkeley, CA., Wed 730 AM	32.00
CA	Corte Madera, CA., Tuesday 700 PM Meeting	40.00
CA	Encinitas, CA., Sat AM Group	80.00
CA	Hollywood, CA., Friday Men's Stag	60.00
CA	Irvine, CA., SLAA Sunday	149.00
CA	Larkspur, CA., Women on Wednesday	170.00
CA	Los Angeles, CA., Focus on Spirituality Sunday	161.48
CA	Los Angeles, CA., Tuesday Farmers Mkt	114.46
CA	Oakland, CA., Sunday Mandana House Mtg	100.00
CA	Palo Alto, CA., Monday Night SLAA Step	74.00

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CA	Palo Alto, CA., Tues Night Men's Meeting	100.00
CA	San Diego, CA., Fri Pk Blvd Mtg	60.00
CA	San Diego, CA., Thursday Night	331.00
CA	San Francisco, CA., Friday AM Meeting	32.00
CA	San Francisco, CA., Healing from Anorexia	108.00
CA	San Francisco, CA., Healthy Intimacy	48.00
CA	San Francisco, CA., Men's Gathering	80.00
CA	San Francisco, CA., Monday	159.70
CA	San Francisco, CA., Sat Night Uptown Mtg	80.00
CA	San Rafael, CA., Thursday	100.00
CA	Santa Cruz, CA., Mon Men's Freedom Group	128.00
CA	Santa Rosa, CA., Wed Men's	105.20
CA	West Hollywood, CA., Tues Keeping Current	60.00
CA	West Hollywood, CA., Tues Keeping Current	60.00
CA	Westminster, CA., Mon Newcomers' Mtg	40.00
CO	Augustine Fellowship of Colorado Springs	40.00
CT	Bridgeport, CT., Sunday Night	80.00
CT	Bridgeport, CT., Tue	40.00
CT	Colchester, CT., Thursday Nite	45.00
CT	Eastern CT Group	16.00
CT	Hartford, CT., Monday	88.00
CT	Hartford, CT., Saturday Looking Inward	80.00
CT	Hartford, CT., Saturday Looking Inward	40.00
CT	Hartford, CT., Sunday Night Step Up	20.00
CT	New Haven, CT., Monday Night	80.00
FL	Florida Roundup Committee	7,300.00
FL	Lake Worth, FL., Sat	481.00
FL	Lakeworth, FL., Monday By the Book	279.00
FL	Orlando, FL., Sunday Womens' Group	30.00
FL	Sarasota, FL., SLAA	80.00
FL	St. Petersburg, FL., Sunday Night	90.00
GA	Atlanta, GA., Druid Hills Sat Morning	600.00
HI	Honolulu, Hawaii SLAA Sat	250.00
HI	Honolulu, Hawaii SLAA Wed & Thur	150.00
IA	Ames, IA., Monday Night	4.60
IL	Chicago, IL., Wed Women's Mtg	52.20
IL	Parkridge, IL., Augustine Fellowship Mon	230.52
MA	Danver, MA., Tuesday Night	80.00
MA	E. Brookfield, MA. Thurs Night Discussion	9.00
MA	Georgetown, MA., Saturday Women's Group	16.00
MA	Haverhill, MA., Thursday Night	100.00
MA	Holyoke, MA., Sunday Night Group	32.00
MA	Newburyport, MA., Saturday	120.00
MA	Newton, MA., Tuesday	280.00
MA	Pittsfield MA., Monday Night Group	33.80
MA	Weymouth, MA., Hope & Recovery	40.00
MA	Worcester, MA., Monday	32.60

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MA	Worcester, MA., New Hope Weds	64.00
MA	Worcester, MA., SLAA Friday Group	140.00
NC	Asheville, NC., SLAA Sat Morning	38.00
NC	Boone, NC., Watauga Shares Group	100.00
NC	Raleigh NC., Friday Evening	43.17
NE	Grand Island, NE., South Central NE SLAA	80.00
NH	New Hampshire Original Group	50.00
NJ	Trenton, N.J. Sunday Night	75.00
NY	Campbell Hall, NY., Saturday	30.00
NY	New York City, NY., Sunday 4 PM Meeting	114.00
NY	New York, NY Thursday Men's Meeting	34.00
NY	New York, NY Wed Men Midtown	170.00
NY	New York, NY., Anorexia Monday	15.00
NY	New York, NY., Friday	30.91
NY	New York, NY., Sat Beg	34.00
NY	New York, NY., SLAA Monday Night	46.40
NY	New York, NY., SLAA Tuesday	15.00
NY	New York, NY., Womens Sunday	40.73
NY	New York, NY Monday Men's Step	69.00
OH	Chagrin Falls, OH., Mon Night Start-Up	15.00
OH	Cincinnati, OH., Emotional Stability Sat	12.00
OH	Cleveland Heights, OH., Thursay Morn SLAA	25.00
OH	Cleveland, OH., Friday Return to Dignity	90.68
OH	Cleveland, OH., West Side Tuesday SLAA	100.00
OH	Middleburg Heights, OH., Wed New Life	205.22
OH	Vandalia, OH., Polk Grove	100.00
OK	Oklahoma City, OK., Tue/Fri	30.00
PA	Ambler, PA., Wed Progress Not Perfection	40.00
PA	Ardmore, PA., Bryn Mawr Sun Even SLAA	159.92
PA	Bryn Mawr, PA., Sunday Evening SLAA Mtg	157.29
PA	Bryn Mawr, PA., Tuesday Meeting	80.00
PA	Lehigh Valley, PA., Roots and Wings Mtg	99.00
PA	Paoli PA., Sat Morning	246.60
PA	Paoli, PA., Thursday Women's Group	45.32
PA	Philadelphia, PA., New Leaf Monday	240.00
PA	Pittsburgh, PA., East End SLAA	64.00
PA	Pittsburgh, PA., Sat	65.00
PA	Pittsburgh, PA., West View Tues Group	14.00
PA	Pittsburgh, PA., West View Wed Group	67.00
PA	State College, PA., Sunday & Thursday	100.00
PA	Whitemarsh, PA., Monday 830	150.00
RI	Providence, RI., Wed Night Meeting	50.00
RI	Warwick, RI., Sunday Serenity	47.00
TN	Memphis, TN., GSL Group	100.00

TX	Austin, TX., Augustine Fellowship Thurs	110.00
TX	Austin, TX., Lambda Group Sunday 500 PM	30.50
TX	Austin, TX., Sat Women on the Path	15.37
TX	Dallas, TX., Augustine Fellowship Lovers	280.00
TX	Houston, TX., Chaplewood Monday Night	131.00
TX	Houston, TX., Coed Tues	50.00
TX	Katy, TX., Wednesday Meeting	61.19
UT	Salt Lake City, UT., Sunday Solution Seek	24.00
VA	Harrisonburg, VA., Friday	50.00
VT	SLAA Vinooski Vermont	120.00
VT	Winooski, Vermont SLAA	80.00
	SLAA support@yahoo.com	10.00
CANADA	Montreal, Canada Hope & Recovery Tues	40.00
CANADA	Montreal, Canada, Liberation Group Friday	46.00
CANADA	Ontario, Canada, St. Augustine Friday Grp	110.48
CANADA	TAADAS	262.80
UK	United Kingdom, SLAA	872.52

Meet the FWS Office Staff

My name is Ashley and I am 22 years old. I attend San Antonio College and I am studying to become a teacher. I would like to teach mathematics because math is my passion; I like the challenge of solving problems. I am a new mother of a 7-month little girl named Kameryn. I have been working at The Augustine Fellowship part-time for a while now since I am in school. I do like my job as the office assistant. The three of us all have different jobs; my main part is filling the orders and getting them ready to go out. But everyone here in the office works really well together and we all have a part in getting everything done and keeping this office up and running.

Hi, my name is Richard. I have been with the company since June of 2008. It is an absolute joy to work in this office with my co-workers. The atmosphere is positive and makes the work day enjoyable. As a team, our goal is, to provide the best service possible. I am a retired teacher. I taught for 25 years at all secondary levels. I enjoy reading and writing poetry. My favorite place to visit is Cozumel, Mexico.

May is Individual Contribution Month at *Fellowship-Wide Services*

Hopefully you will have heard about Individual Contribution Month through your Intergroup Rep, but if your group doesn't have an Intergroup Rep, or perhaps even an Intergroup, we hope you'll carry this message to your group for us. If you are willing, please click the link below to print out a flyer and take it to your meeting. Thank you very much for your help.

[CLICK HERE TO PRINT OUT A FLYER FOR YOUR MEETING](#)

HELP FWS TO CARRY THE MESSAGE

Last fall we asked groups and Intergroups, "What is the one thing you need most from F.W.S.?" Here are some of the answers we got:

- New Literature: "12-Steps and 12-Traditions of S.L.A.A."; a step-study guide; more pamphlets; translations of existing literature.
- Public Information: more support for local public information work; more support for outreach to prisoners and for public service announcements; a public campaign to raise awareness of sex and love addiction and S.L.A.A. recovery.
- Recovery Resources: more support for addicts without meetings; more support for starting meetings; templates for setting up Intergroup websites; more support for applying the 12 Traditions in S.L.A.A. service.
- Communication: better phone responsiveness; better communication between groups and Intergroups; more communication and transparency between F.W.S. and the groups.

One phrase sums up all of these needs: "To carry [the] message to the addict who still suffers." (Tradition 5). We will do as much carrying as we can, with or without money.* But many of the things that you have told us you want from F.W.S. require more money. Our commitment is to spend your money responsibly to carry the message in the ways you've asked for. The more money you send us, the more message we can carry.

MAKE A CONTRIBUTION

Out of gratitude for your own recovery, and to help the addict who still suffers, we ask that you consider making a contribution to Fellowship-Wide Services this May.

SET UP A REGULAR MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION

You'd be amazed what a difference it makes to have regular monthly contributions. You can set up a monthly contribution using your debit or credit card on the F.W.S. website in no time. You get to express your gratitude every month with minimal hassle. F.W.S. gets a steady stream of contributions to count on.

*To learn more about what F.W.S. is doing to carry the message on a shoe-string, [check out this article from the April issue of the F.W.S. Newsletter](#). If you do not get the newsletter you can subscribe, and see past issues, at www.slaafws.org.

[CLICK HERE TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION](#)

You Are Responsible ...

... for the free info packets we send out and the literature we print
... for the emails we respond to and the phone calls we answer
... for the meeting information we give out and the addicts we support

... for carrying the message.

May is Individual Contribution Month!

Why do we have an annual individual contribution month?

The simple answer is to keep S.L.A.A. financially healthy in order to provide services to help the addict who still suffers. The Board of Trustees and Conference Committees will benefit from your contributions, but our Fellowship's most immediate concern is Fellowship-Wide Services through the financial contributions of members — one member at a time.

Every penny counts. Please, send in your donations — we are self-supporting through our own contributions! Return the completed form on the back of this sheet with your check, credit, or debit card.

THIS CONTRIBUTION DOES NOT REPLACE THE USUAL 7th TRADITION CONTRIBUTIONS.

Your contributions are vital for F.W.S. to continue providing services to all that need them! *May Individual Contribution Month is just another creative way for us to achieve our budget projections and continue in our primary purpose — to help the sex and love addict who still suffers.*

Keep in mind that your donation is TAX DEDUCTIBLE!

May Individual Contribution Month! Send to: F.W.S., 1550 NE Loop 410 Suite 118 San Antonio, TX U.S.A.

Type of contribution: Please check one
 GROUP/INTERGROUP (Use sections A, B & C) INDIVIDUAL (Use section B) Please send acknowledgement: yes no
 RECOGNITION OF AN EVENT (Use sections B & C)

Section A: Please print all acknowledgement information.
Meeting Day & Time: _____ Meeting Location: (city/state) _____
Group Name: _____

Section B: Please print all acknowledgement information and/or credit/debit card holder information.
Name to which contribution should be attributed: _____
Address: _____

Enclosed is a check(s) or money order(s) made payable to: The Augustine Fellowship in the amount of \$ _____
 Please charge my credit/debit card \$ _____
 Mastercard Visa Expiration Date: _____
 Please charge my credit/debit card \$ _____ per month for _____ months.
(You will be charged on the 15th of the month. We will send you a notice 1 week prior.)
 Mastercard Visa Expiration Date: _____ Acct #: (print clearly) _____

Name as it appears on credit card: (please print) _____
Cardholder's Address: _____
Cardholder's Telephone# _____ Cardholder's E-mail: _____

Section C: Please check appropriate box(es) & print specific information regarding reason for donation.
 Regular group/intergroup Contribution ___ Years of Sobriety ___ Anniversary Gratitude
 Regular Individual Contribution ___ Birthday
 The passing of _____ Marriage of _____
 ___ Years of Recovery Acknowledgement of Member Milestone: (be specific below) _____
 Other _____

(Please note that it is S.L.A.A.'s policy that \$12,000 is the maximum amount an individual may contribute per fiscal year. Please refer to the S.L.A.A. 60/40 pamphlet for more details.)

S.L.A.A. WEBSITE HITS 2008

There have been 329,835 hits on the S.L.A.A. website in 2008. Most of the hits were in the month of May, followed by March, April, June, July, and August respectively. Monday was the weekday that had the most hits, with Tuesday and Wednesday following closely behind. Four o'clock in the afternoon was the time of day that had the most hits, followed by 2pm, 3pm, 12noon, 1pm, and 11am respectively. Most hits were made in the USA, followed by "countries unknown" and Germany. Most hits were 0-30 seconds in duration.

Conference Steps and Traditions Questions and Answers

What tradition may help me interpret, understand, or support needing to understand how to integrate sharing how various co-existing issues/ addictions affect my recovery as a whole? For example, my drug and alcohol illness and recovery affects my love addiction and sexual anorexia and recovery. I know the Traditions make reference to "outside issues" and our "primary purpose." When I am honest about the how, what, where, and why of my recovery, is it safe to share my thoughts about these other issues? What are you are your thoughts on how the Traditions apply here?

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

+++++

The Traditions which come to mind are Tradition 4 "Each group should be autonomous..." and Tradition 5 "Each group has but one primary purpose - to carry its message to the sex and love addict who still suffers." This is a question as to local custom and acceptability of sharing about other addictions within the meeting. In some meetings this is acceptable, but in others, it is frowned upon. There are instances when the addictions are so intertwined as to make it difficult to separate the addictive actions of one addiction from those of other addictions. Most likely, there is a core addiction which brought about the other addictions which were used to numb or medicate feelings. My personal view on this is that when this is the case, other addictions and their relationship to sex and love addictions could be brought out to help others to better understand the interconnection of these various addictions. This certainly is an opportunity to carry the message since others may be struggling with these various issues.

+++++

I think the Tradition that addresses this question is endorsing outside issues. I think that it is OK to mention other 12 Step Recovery in one's own share but it is not appropriate for S.L.A.A. as a whole to endorse or condemn any other entity. Certainly any group can set the rule that other addictions cannot be mentioned but that cannot be S.L.A.A.'s stance according to Tradition 4 and 10. Personally, I agree that all my addictions are intertwined.

+++++

Over the years, I have let Tradition 5 guide me more and more. (Tradition 5: Each group has but one primary purpose--to carry the message to the sex and love addict who still suffers.) With that in mind, I consider the newcomer in the room. I want to make sure that what I share carries the message of S.L.A.A. first and foremost. I, like many others, have addictions in many other areas and I may mention them casually in my shares, but I try to keep in mind that if I talk about AA, Alanon, or DA (the list goes on) extensively this just muddies the water for the newcomer or relatively newcomer who is trying to figure out our program. This is not to say that I ignore those other issues. As a wise person once told me, "take the message to the meetings and the mess to your sponsor." I have sponsors or other program friends in the other 12 step meetings that I can talk to, but when I'm in a meeting of sex and love addicts, I try to stick to the message of Sex and Love Addiction...for myself and for the newcomers.

+++++

S.L.A.A. is a fellowship that evolved from the principles and traditions of AA. The diversity within the rooms of other fellowships may seem less apparent than what I find in the rooms of S.L.A.A. It makes sense that other 12 step programs are mentioned more in our rooms than, perhaps, other fellowships because of our individual definition of sobriety. I think in order for each one of us to come out of isolation and our aloneness we need to be able to share our experience, strength and hope from our highest level of integrateness. That may mean mentioning recovery in other fellowships and it may mean speaking facts about other fellowships not exactly fitting our needs. One stark difference about our rooms is that members need to feel safe. In the same way that our S.L.A.A. text book shares experience, strength and hope of the founder of our program, it seems that discipline was used in the book to not be graphic. So I say anything should go as far as members feeling comfortable articulating the tools, programs and techniques they are using to move forward with living a recovered life. But maybe we could suggest that our meeting format encourage members to limit the background / history / graphic information associated with the support they are receiving outside our fellowship. And maybe we could suggest that our meeting format articulate not promoting any other enterprises including other 12 step fellowships since it breaches our tradition of attraction not promotion.

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

SLAA Women's Beach Retreat

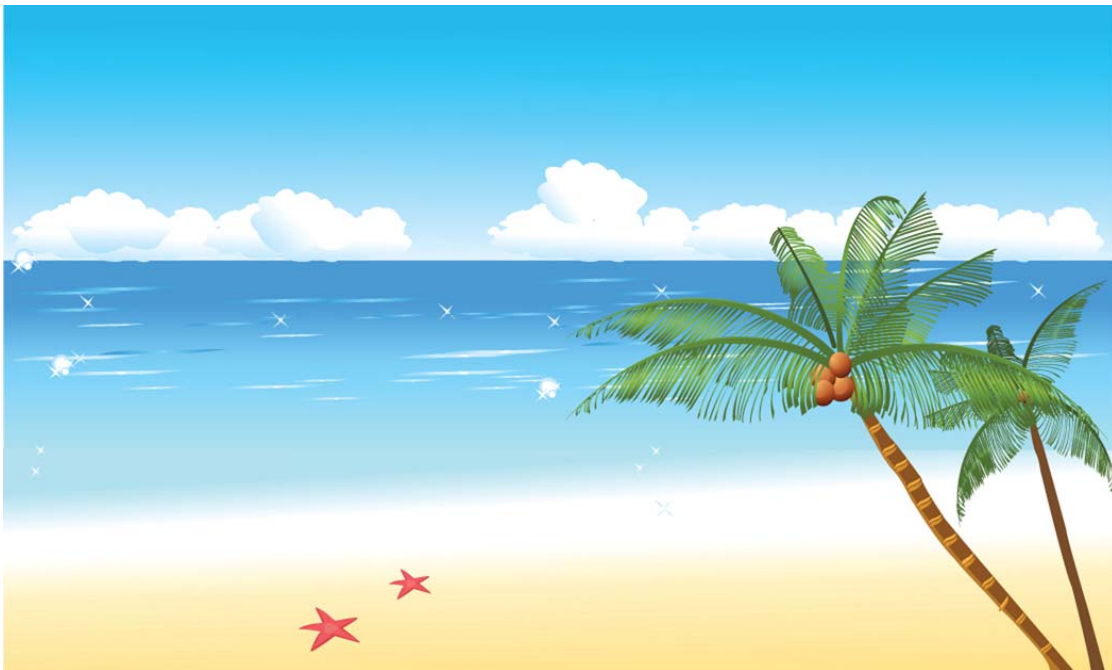
May 1st to 3rd

STEPS ONE thru TWELVE

LOCATION: **Surfside**

HOUSE: Playa del Oro, 2402 Bluewater Hwy

Retreat House opens for arrivals at 4:00pm



Registration limited to 32 women. We will probably have a waiting list for last minute drop-outs.

Registration Fee: \$135 before April 1st, \$150 after. Includes all retreat activities, room and meals.
There will be **no registration refund** after April 20th for any reason.

Chairperson: Jennifer J. 713-213-7810
jennejosey@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Ava P. 713-826-2829
aprofota@comcast.net

Reservations for the retreat can only be made by sending your check in with your registration form. You will receive a confirmation letter with directions to the beach house the week before the retreat.

Room accommodations are first come first served. Early birds on the day of the retreat get best pick for sleeping arrangements. **Bring your own sheets, pillow cases, toiletries, towels, blankets, toilet paper, 1 roll of paper towels and 1 gallon of water.**



Registration Form—cut off and mail with check

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail checks to: Ava P. Make checks payable to Augustine Beach Retreat & mail to
7203 Junco Dr, Houston, Texas 77040



Gratitude for our Addiction

Saturday, April 4 2009
12:00-5:00 p.m.

St. Luke's on The Lake
5600 N RR620, Austin 78732

Suggested Donation: \$10.00
(Free admission to all who
need it)

CoSLAA, SLAA partners/spouses
and other "S" fellowships are
also invited

More Information:
www.SLAA-Austin.org



Austin Texas Intergroup

Workshops:

- Weaving a Spiritual Tapestry
- Taking Authentic Emotional Risks
- How Body Image Affects Self-Worth
- Sponsors: Being One and Getting One
- Sober Dating in a Provocative Society
- Defining Sobriety Through Bottom Lines

- Couple's Panel

- Keynote Speaker from Montreal, Canada

- Silent Auction

- Concessions



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Host the 2010 International Recovery Convention!



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

HOST THE WHAT?

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

What to do and when to do it by:

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

**Let us
know**

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