



June 2009

Welcome to the Summer issue of the 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.

- Take this printable version to all your meetings.
- Subscribe now on the F.W.S. homepage, www.slaafws.org.
- Take a newsletter flyer to your meeting:
http://www.slaafws.org/NEWSLETTERS/2008-01/Newsletter_subscription_flyer.pdf
- Can't get online? F.W.S. will send you a printed version for a small fee.
Go to http://www.slaafws.org/forms/news_subs.pdf to set up a print subscription.

See What's Inside:

BOT Chair's Report	pg. 2
General Manager's Report	pg. 4
Profit/Loss Statement – Previous Year Comparison	pg. 6
BOT Committee Reports	pg. 7
The Danish Documentary on Sex and Love Addiction	pg. 11
Introduction to the New BOT Member	pg. 12
My Time on the BOT: Chris D.	pg. 13
Webmaster Job Description	pg. 15
Tradition 7	pg. 16
Conference Steps and Traditions Committee Q&A	pg. 17
<i>the Journal</i> : Look What is Happening and How You Can Help	pg. 19
BOT Meeting Summaries Aug08-Mar09	pg. 23
Conference Committee Report: CIC, CAC, CLC	pg. 26
Register for the E-Bulletin	pg. 30
2008 Annual Business Meeting Minutes	pg. 30
How to contact the FWS Newsletter Editor	pg. 30
Call Squad Message	pg. 31

Board of Trustees (BOT) Chair's Report

17 May 2009

Greetings Friends,

It is with pleasure that I announce the appointment of Kim B. of Boston, Massachusetts to the Board of Trustees (BOT) effective March 6th. Kim has served on the Board Governance and Nominating Committee (BGNC) as a non-board member since August 2008 and on April 20th was elected the BGNC chair. I had been BGNC chair since May 2008 and it is customary for the BOT chair not to be a board committee chair. However, due to only 5 members on the board and thus, a shortfall of members, this was a short term solution. However, it is recommended that the BOT chair serve on the BGNC and this I gladly continue.

In addition, Kim is now the Prison Outreach Committee (POC) BOT liaison. I serve as BOT liaison to Conference Bylaws Committee (CBC), Conference Charter Committee (CCC), and Conference Intergroup Communication Committee (CICC), and most recently added, the Conference Journal Committee (CJC).

The single most important event that has happened since my last submission to the FWS Newsletter is my 10-day trip to Texas March 31-April 9, 2009. A detailed report is provided in the June 2009 issue of the Conference Newsletter (contact <http://www.slaafws.org/contact/General+Questions> for a copy).

The highlights are the following:

- General impression of the FWS Office and Staff-see *Preliminary Report April 3, 2009*.
- Visiting the Sex Addicts Anonymous (SAA) Office in Houston April 6th and phone call with the SAA Board chair, Tim E., April 8th re: Merging of S.L.A.A., SAA, and Sexual Compulsives Anonymous (SCA).
- Prison Outreach Letters found.
- Master Copies of Translated Materials and Original agreements with Germany, Brazil, and other foreign countries.
- Policy on Printing, Distributing and/or Translating S.L.A.A. Copyrighted Literature developed by two past attorneys, Jonathon Brant and Valerie Jacoby.
- Meeting the CPA, Randy Walker. Discussions about continuing service and monthly financial reports for 2009-2010 fiscal year.

Current concerns with updates:

- *The Journal* financial details of expenses/revenue and subscription list. Two listings sent by the General Manager (GM) to the Conference Journal Committee (CJC) chair/editor.
- Outsourcing the printing of the S.L.A.A. Basic Text in the UK, or not, continues to be discussed by BOT and UK.
- Preparation started for the 3-day BOT meetings before the ABC/M 09: Self-Assessment and Preliminary Schedule.
- Hiring of Valerie Jacoby as F.W.S. attorney; with F.W.S. from 1992-2006. Met with her in person May 1st in Boston with Kim B.
- Performance evaluations and job descriptions for F.W.S. Office staff discussed.
- Hiring of a F.W.S. Webmaster on a 3-month trial basis.
- F.W.S. Office and Website email addresses/routing and "Contact Us" page updates done.

- Intergroup/Lone Group database and registration with F.W.S. Office discussed by Web Team.
- CPA hired for 2006-08 reports and tax filings-to be completed by the ABC/M.
- Check signers updated Apr09.
- Copyrights, website guidelines for Intergroups/Lone Groups and policy statements-ongoing discussions with Web Team, Board Finance and Operating Committee (BFOC) and attorney.
- POC outreach via the online store guidelines developed by Web Team and POC letters found and sent to POC members.

List of world-wide activities since ABM08:

- ABM08 request from Montreal SLAA/DASA Intergroup to fund translation of the Basic Text into French by a paid professional; about 30% already done over 20 years and Conference Approved regionally in some cases.
- ABM08 Conference Diversity Committee (CDC) forms subcommittee on Translation.
- 28Aug08 Spanish translation of the Basic Text, 60pgs done according to Rico J. of Brazil and includes members from Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay-Los Angeles/San Francisco interested in helping.
- 18Nov08 Oslo, Norway email about what is legal? S.L.A.A. Basic Text on internet.
- 4Dec08 request for Multilingual Website Project- CDC Translation Subcommittee
- 22Jan09 Request for Translation into Chinese for Taiwan group
- 22Jan09 BRS received for approval new literature in Portuguese on Twelve Steps, Traditions and Concepts.
- 2Feb09 Request for approval of S.L.A.A. translations into Danish
- 6Mar09 Chapter 1 of Basic Text in French sent to F.W.S. Office by member in Paris
- 8Mar09 CCC BRS receives a motion-the formation of a Conference Translation Committee ABM09
- 9Mar09 Edmonton, Alberta Canada new group posting.
- 11Mar09 Inquiry from South Korean member about attending the ABC/M.
- 14 Mar09 Middle East Abu Dhabi and Dubai meetings.
- 15Mar09 Early Delegate Sign-ups by France and Ireland.
- 18Mar09 Kihei, Maui new group posting.
- 19Mar09 Capetown, South African bookstore request from member/owner.
- 1Apr09 Boxes found at F.W.S. Office dating back to the 1980s and early translations/agreements/master copies with Sweden, Norway, Brazil, Uruguay, Germany, Spain and more. To be reviewed and summarized.
- 10Apr09 Request for Information to Translate SLAA Literature and Website into Chinese.
- 28Apr09 CICC contacted by Swedish member about starting a Swedish Intergroup.
- 29Apr09 Member from Germany called F.W.S. Office to discuss F.W.S. Website in German.

As a Fellowship, we are experiencing a groundswell of growth generally and internationally as evidenced from the list above. This is a very exciting time as we put our house in order and set the stage to facilitate translations of S.L.A.A. copyrighted materials.

In addition, we had a record number of ABC/M early registration sign-ups by March 16th as compared to the previous year. Already we have 40 registrations and the deadline is June 5th for delegate registration. There are delegates coming from Ireland, France, UK, Germany and Canada.

This year's ABC/M theme is Tradition 7 and stresses that we are self-supporting through our own contributions. Contributions take many forms, and include, but are not limited to, monies, time, and talent; the latter two known as service. In the spirit of participation, no contribution is too small to practice this important Tradition. Please take a moment to visit the FWS online link http://store.slaafws.org/merchant.mvc?Screen=CTGY&Store_Code=SOS&Category_Code=GC8 to make a contribution as it is never too late to give or participate.

You will find the General Manager's report and the 6-month Profit/Loss Financial Comparisons for Oct-Mar09 with Oct-Mar08 in this issue as well. In spite of the recession and world economy, Fellowship-Wide Services, Inc. is holding its own thanks to you.

And to all those who have given so freely of their time, talent and treasure this year to support the Fellowship, whether locally at home groups, Intergroups, or through service on Conference Committees, at the F.W.S. Office or Board Committees, or as BOT members I extend my deepest gratitude.

Grateful to serve,
Rita H.
BOT Chair

Fellowship-Wide Services (FWS) Office General Manager's Report

Hello All,

Over all the office is running smoothly; everyone is positive, focused, and on task. I couldn't ask for a better group of people. I am currently a member of and attend meetings for BF&OC, CCC, Web Team, Conference Service Manual (CSM) Revision Work Group, and ABC/M Scheduling Work Group, and future Translation subcommittee. I also have weekly meetings with Rita H. –BOT chair and Beth S. – Web Master.

Financially- Please see the attached October 2008-March 2009 previous year comparison report. Contributions for March were in line with February but down from January. I expect April's contributions to be slightly higher than our last couple of months. Sales were consistent in January and February and increased in March and I expect April to be in line with March. On the other side, expenses have increased over the last couple of months. This is partly due to the fact that we have hired a CPA and an attorney, but we have also had extra expenses due to the buy out of some of our Dell leases, BOT chair's visit, ABM travel, and some needed software. Labor increased from last year due to the hiring of an additional employee. During the next couple of months, we will have to purchase some inventory, an expenditure of approximately \$15,000.00. I have been maintaining regular contact with the CPA. Two years of tax filings are already complete and are currently under review. When this is complete, they will work on the third year, which will bring us current with our tax filings. We will then begin working on the filings for both the states of Massachusetts and Texas.

Operationally- Ashley and Richard are helping with orders, inventory, and shipments. All orders are current. Over the last month, emails, phone calls and mail have increased slightly. This is partly due to the ABM, but we have also had an increase in questions from possible new members. This week, I received 7 requests for information about starting a new meeting. We are working with the new pamphlet printer but the transition from the old printer to the new one has been difficult and time consuming. All pamphlet files have to be transferred from film to a .pdf format. This would have been very costly and not possible if not for Bob F. He is transferring all files to the .pdf format. Thank you, Bob. You have been a life saver. We have ordered new Step chips, 4-7, and will have them in time for the ABM. We received the next two editions of the *journal* and will begin production on them next week. We also are working on a number of projects for the ABM. Both the staff and I are attending Al-Anon Meetings and are having weekly meetings about the Steps and Traditions.

Projects:

Working with the German Intergroup representative regarding website issues.

UK printer

Step Chips

New payment gateway

Online check processing gateway

Foreign pamphlet conversion and production

Inventory

Package tracking project

Reports for the *journal*

SOP's

Thank you,

Linda

**The Augustine Fellowship, S.L.A.A.,
F.W.S. Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison**

	Oct '08 - Mar 09	Oct '07 - Mar 08	\$ Change	% Change
ABC/M Income				
ABC/M Registration	0.00	103.91	-103.91	-100.0%
Total ABC/M Income	0.00	103.91	-103.91	-100.0
Contribution Income- Campaign				
Groups	2,028.72	1,030.72	998.00	96.8%
Individual	947.75	0.00	947.75	100.0%
Intergroups	0.00	25.00	-25.00	-100.0%
Total Contribution Income- Campaign	2,976.47	1,055.72	1,920.75	181.9%
Contribution Income- Regular				
Groups	33,262.20	26,023.49	7,238.71	27.8%
Individuals	21,680.44	25,549.36	-3,868.92	-15.1%
Intergroups	6,556.53	8,951.37	-2,394.84	-26.8%
Total Contribution Income- Regular	61,499.17	60,524.22	974.95	1.6%
Operations Income				
Booklets	2,275.00	2,215.00	60.00	2.7%
Bookmarks	241.25	140.00	101.25	72.3%
Books	34,805.28	38,162.95	-3,357.67	-8.8%
CD's/Tapes	3,416.25	2,835.84	580.41	20.5%
Medallions/Chips	8,375.25	7,836.50	538.75	6.9%
Other Product Sales	3,881.00	2,389.50	1,491.50	62.4%
Pamphlets	21,372.00	21,212.20	159.80	0.8%
Postage	12,363.52	11,211.09	1,152.43	10.3%
Starter Kits	426.00	342.00	84.00	24.6%
The Journal	1,592.50	1,395.50	197.00	14.1%
Operations Income - Other	-3,237.79	-4,891.91	1,654.12	33.8%
Total Operations Income	85,510.26	82,848.67	2,661.59	3.2%
Uncategorized Income	0.00	-13.02	13.02	100.0%
Total Income	149,985.90	144,519.50	5,466.	40 3.8%
Cost of Goods Sold				
Cost of Goods Sold				
Booklets	48.57	269.76	-221.19	-82.0%
Bookmarks	12.02	1,334.54	-1,322.52	-99.1%
Books	5,055.85	5,857.52	-801.67	-13.7%
CDs/Tapes	397.12	2,133.05	-1,735.93	-81.4%
Medallions/Chips	2,511.75	2,286.25	225.50	9.9%
Other Products	2,091.64	1,269.54	822.10	64.8%
Pamphlets	4,370.50	4,411.61	-41.11	-0.9%
Starter Kits	60.00	52.86	7.14	13.5%
Cost of Goods Sold - Other	431.48	401.35	30.13	7.5%
Total Cost of Goods Sold	14,978.93 1	8,016.48	-3,037.55	-16.9%
Total COGS	14,978.93	18,016.48	-3,037.55	-16.9%
Gross Profit	135,006.97	126,503.02	8,503.95	6.7%
Expense				
BOT				
BOT Hotel	428.00	346.74	81.26	23.4%
BOT Meals	0.00	109.28	-109.28	-100.0%
BOT Other	139.00	44.14	94.86	214.9%
BOT Travel	407.00	342.96	64.04	18.7%
Total BOT	974.00	843.12	130.88	15.5%
BOT ABM				
BOT ABM Travel	686.17	1,234.80	-548.63	-44.4%
Total BOT ABM	686.17	1,234.80	-548.63	-44.4%
Conference Expenses				
ABM Hotel	640.00	500.00	140.00	28.0%

**The Augustine Fellowship, S.L.A.A.,
F.W.S. Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison**

Conf. Comm. Expenses	0.00	502.97	-502.97	-100.0%
Travel Equalization Fund	4,950.00	0.00	4,950.00	100.0%
Total Conference Expenses	5,590.00	1,002.97	4,587.03	457.3%
Contract Services				
Accounting Fees	1,467.00	537.00	930.00	173.2%
Outside Contract Services	489.65	280.18	209.47	74.8%
Total Contract Services	1,956.65	817.18	1,139.47	139.4%
Facilities and Equipment				
Equip Rental and Maint.	12,669.23	8,458.01	4,211.22	49.8%
Equipment Purchases	460.00	0.00	460.00	100.0%
Property Insurance	0.00	961.00	-961.00	-100.0%
Rent & Parking	15,132.48	15,200.04	-67.56	-0.4%
Telephone	3,980.93	3,739.81	241.12	6.5%
Total Facilities and Equipment	32,242.64	28,358.86	3,883.78	13.7%
General Office Expenses				
Bank Fees	175.00	468.10	-293.10	-62.6%
Credit Card Fees	4,209.86	3,495.53	714.33	20.4%
Dues, Fees and Licenses	105.00	50.00	55.00	110.0%
Insurance - Liability, DandO	547.98	494.35	53.63	10.9%
Mileage	1,605.54	1,087.35	518.19	47.7%
Profit/Loss	0.00	44.90	-44.90	-100.0%
Total General Office Exp.	6,643.38	5,640.23	1,003.15	17.8%
Operations				
Computer Supplies	1,334.39	476.05	858.34	180.3%
Consumable Supplies	5,718.03	7,353.31	-1,635.28	-22.2%
Miscellaneous Expenses	0.00	542.36	-542.36	-100.0%
Packaging and Supplies	1,300.69	1,951.74	-651.05	-33.4%
Postage, Mailing Service	18,382.70	16,608.61	1,774.09	10.7%
Printing and Copying	276.72	0.00	276.72	100.0%
The Journal Print & Paper	713.25	0.00	713.25	100.0%
Total Operations	27,725.78	26,932.07	793.71	3.0%
Payroll Expenses				
Employee Benefits	5,130.54	5,331.85	-201.31	-3.8%
Other Labor	0.00	503.25	-503.25	-100.0%
Payroll Tax Liabilities	4,642.88	3,966.94	675.94	17.0%
Salary Expenses	56,117.51	47,588.51	8,529.00	17.9%
Total Payroll Expenses	65,890.93	57,390.55	8,500.38	14.8%
Reconciliation Discrepancies	-0.02	26,777.12	-26,777.14	-100.0%
Uncategorized Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Uncleared Items	0.00	-705.36	705.36	100.0%
Total Expense	141,709.53	148,291.54	-6,582.01	-4.4%
Net Income	-6,702.56	-21,788.52	15,085.96	69.2%

Board of Trustees Committee Reports

Board Finance & Operating Committee (BF&OC)

Report to the Fellowship—March 1 to May 15, 2009

Current BFOC members include:

Richard C.	BOT member & BFOC chair (12/05-12/08, 1/09-)	Newton, Massachusetts
Bob F.	BOT member (1/09-)	Omaha, Nebraska
Bob M.	Non-BOT member (10/05-)	Atherton, California
John S.	Non-BOT member (11/08-)	Chicago, Illinois
Kevin M.	Non-BOT member (5/09-)	Tampa Bay, Florida

Anthony P.	Non-BOT member (5/09-)	Chicago, Illinois
Linda Hamilton	FWS GM, ex-officio member (10/06-)	San Antonio, Texas

In this period, meetings were held on March 26, April 16, April 30 and May 14. We are pleased to announce the appointments of Kevin M. (Tampa Bay) and Anthony P. (Chicago) on April 16th as non-board members of BFOC, commencing with the customary 90-day evaluation period. Both members bring valuable professional and Conference service experience.

On an ongoing basis, BFOC supports the FWS General Manager (“GM”) in both office operations and finances. At the end of each month, BFOC reviews the office general fund account balance sheet and profit and loss statement reflecting financial data from the prior month, and reviews the office revenue and expense data on a month-over-month and quarter-over-quarter comparable basis.

The FWS office has retained the accounting services of Randy Walker & Co., CPA in San Antonio, Texas to assist in the compliance of all state and federal tax and corporations reporting. Currently, the CPA is reviewing the IRS tax reports for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, after which the tax report for fiscal year 2008 will be likewise prepared. Thereafter, the office will have sufficient documents to complete the Massachusetts and Texas corporations filings. The CPA will also advise and represent the FWS office on the issue of Massachusetts and Texas sales tax collection for FWS online store purchases.

In addition, the FWS office has retained the legal services of Valerie Jacoby, Esq. in Newton, Massachusetts to assist in general corporate matters, state reporting compliance, and in specific copyright issues. Ms. Jacoby had previously served as legal counsel for the FWS office in Dedham, Massachusetts.

In addition, BFOC reports the following activities:

- Advised the FWS GM in developing a job description, compensation plan and hiring process for contracting with a professional individual to serve as the FWS webmaster following the resignation of Beth S. as volunteer webmaster effective April 1, 2009. Having completed the job description, the FWS GM will post the webmaster contract bid solicitation for a period of 90 days by means of diverse online and print media available to the FWS office. In this interim period, Beth S. is serving as a paid professional webmaster.
- Received request from a group in New England Intergroup to explore the procurement and sale of certain professional quality clay chips to be used as sobriety chips. Given the substantially higher costs for these clay chips, BFOC recommended the FWS office to document the extent of potential price increases and to seek wider input from Conference delegates at the ABM.
- Facilitated quarterly distributions to the FWS general fund account from the FWS prudent reserve fund pursuant to existing distribution policy.

- Received inquiry and provided information to the Danish Intergroup for the translation of a portion of the SLAA Basic Text into Danish.
- Continued deliberations about the UK Intergroup request to publish the SLAA Basic Text and other pamphlets locally in England.
- Continued deliberations about the use and possession of electronic files of the SLAA Basic Text by the SLAA Online Group.
- On May 9, the BOT created a Copyright and Translation Subcommittee under BFOC. Rita H. will chair this new subcommittee and will recruit members to staff it.

Submitted in gratitude,
Richard C., Chair

Board Governance and Nominating Committee (BG&NC)

The BG&NC 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. Items that we have been working on since the last FWS Newsletter are included below.

With two BOT members leaving the board since the 2008 ABC/M, the BG&NC has been working to fill vacant positions. Kim B. was appointed to the BOT in March to fill a vacant term ending in 2011. Tom F. was appointed as a non-Board member of the BG&NC, Anthony P. and Kevin M. were appointed as non-Board members of the BF&OC. A nominating committee was formed to conduct oral interviews for BOT candidates and has completed interviews of Leon C. and Rob K., candidates for the BOT at the 2009 ABC/M.

Other activities include:

- Review of the By-Laws Committee technical changes to the S.L.A.A. By-Laws
- Continuing A.A. Concepts Review by the Concepts Task Force for potential adoption by S.L.A.A.
- Work with the Conference Intergroup Communications Committee to facilitate the Intergroup Call Squad activities; in April Call-Squad activities included informing S.L.A.A. members about service opportunities for the Journal (S.L.A.A.'s bi-monthly recovery magazine) and May-Is-Individual-Contribution Month
- Work with the General Manager and Webmaster on a Web Team for the FWS website.
- Work on a policy for Board Committees with respect to Ex Officio members of committees
- Review of the BOT Self-appraisal performed annually at the ABC/M

We are still actively looking for S.L.A.A. member and non-member candidates for the BOT as well as non-BOT members for BOT committees. 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.

Kim B., Chair, Board Governance & Nominating Committee

Board Public Relations Committee (BPRC)

5/15/09

The BPRC is comprised of BOT members Stephen S., chair, Chris D., Bob F., non-BOT members Deb W., Steve S (Philly), Steve T. (on trial period).

- Danish documentary filmmaker, Pernille Rose Grønkjær has conducted interviews of our members in California and Texas. She is planning to return in June and is planning her itinerary. We are still in the market for more interviewees. If you can recommend anyone with Love Addiction who might be interested, please refer them to the BPRC. Please see the article about this elsewhere in the June FWS Newsletter.
- Deb W. chairing the IRC subcommittee. We have written an IFD asking for the pros and cons of holding the IRC every five years to coincide with the Fellowship's anniversary. FWS has proposed that we hold the 2010 ABC/M in San Antonio. Deb will create a flyer requesting bids for the 2011 ABC/M and IRC and 2012 ABC/M.
- New web content. The CIC Review Subcommittee (CICRS) is now operational and is shepherding its first new document, *How to get sober in places where there are no meetings*, through the process of approval by the Conference. We appreciate your cooperation in providing feedback in a timely manner. BPRC is talking with HOW groups in UK about how to proceed with the HOW literature they've created. FWS may want to post this but it needs to be reviewed first. In the meantime, the HOW Beginners' Kit as well as the Catalogue of Diverse Meeting Formats that were posted on the site earlier have been removed due to some problems with their content. The Catalogue has been revised and is ready to be reviewed by the BPRC and CICRS and the HOW docs will be reviewed once they have been edited and resubmitted.
- The Task Force hit a snag working to update and digitize the new meeting and new IG starter packets. They seem to be on track to get these online very soon.
- Web Team report—The FWS Web Team is comprised of the FWS GM, FWS Webmaster, BOT Chair and BPRC Chair. The Team reports to the BPRC. The Web Team met April 27 and May 7. Next meeting, May 28
 - Thanks to BPRC for editing/reviewing FWS email addresses policy. It is now under review by CCC chair and possibly to CIC.
 - Team working to remove unneeded addresses.
 - Working to develop policy on posting requirements for the FWS Bulletin and trying to encourage members to sign up for it. Designed to convey timely info to membership re: FWS office and bookstore. Currently 240 subscribers. Please see the article about the FWS Bulletin elsewhere in this Newsletter.
 - Considering requests for copies of our site and bookstore in German and Chinese.
 - Reviewing online guidelines re: website use and also copyright.

- BPRC has reviewed and tested the Meeting and Intergroup Database and provided important feedback to the FWS webmaster. This database will be of tremendous benefit to the Fellowship and the FWS office in maintaining current meeting and contact information.
- BPRC Chair requested the correction of SLAA contact information on the HealthyPlace website.
- Wikipedia article on SLAA was reviewed and updated.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen S., BPRC Chair

Visual Anonymity in the Media: *A Film on Love Addiction is Born*

Back in November of 2008, the Board Public Relations Committee (BPRC) had a most interesting request. Acclaimed Danish documentary film director, Pernille Rose Grønkjær (www.danishdocumentary.com), approached the BPRC regarding her latest project ... *a documentary on Love Addiction*. Pernille was looking for subjects she could interview for the film - love addicts in various stages of recovery and active addiction - and turned to S.L.A.A.:

"This documentary will look into the nature of Love Addiction. It will search to understand what creates the addiction and describe the pain and suffering this remarkable addiction causes. The film must be told with respect through the lives and personal stories of Love Addicts. Love Addiction is a very delicate matter and in order to fully understand this addiction it is very important to experience it through the eyes of the addicts. This personal approach is important in order to create identification and thereby sympathy."

A lively email exchange ensued between Stephen S. of Pittsburgh, Chairperson of the BPRC, and assistant director, Gina Bevilacqua, to gather information about the production company and assess the integrity of the project. Surely enough, Pernille had impressive credentials! She had directed the documentary, "The Monastery – Mr. Vig and the Nun", which had its US premiere at the esteemed Sundance Film Festival in 2007. The film had already traveled to 60 festivals around the globe and had won 14 awards including the prestigious Joris Ivens Award in Amsterdam, and recently, The Cinema Eye Award in New York. It was clear FWS and the BPRC were dealing with a professional - but what of The Twelve Traditions of SLAA and "... anonymity at the level of press, radio, TV, film, and other public media...?"

This opportunity prompted the BOT and BGNC to convene to discuss the issue of *visual anonymity* and its application in "The Twelve Recommended Guidelines for Dealing with Media/Public Relations Opportunities for Use at All Levels of the SLAA Fellowship" (pamphlet 1985) and Tradition 11:

"The consensus and view of the BOT and BGNC is that if S.L.A.A. members get to talk about S.L.A.A. (the hoped-for outcome) then visual identity has to be concealed to protect the organization; if we want to be fully seen and have our identity revealed that is our choice but we must not mention S.L.A.A. specifically. This could be great for overcoming stigma and shame. If we want visual anonymity for our own reasons, that is fine too. We are not forced into anything that does not work for us."

Sober discussions also took place at the March 2008 meeting of the BPRC. Some of the questions that emerged about the upcoming interviews were: Do we have a say in the final cut of the film? Is this film focusing on the solution and not just the problem? Has AA ever done this kind of thing? The answers offered by board members of long standing were calmative to all in attendance and it was agreed this would be an excellent opportunity for S.L.A.A. “ ... to carry its message to the sex and love addict who still suffers.” [5th Tradition]:

“There is room for caution and questioning. The only time I’ve seen the process go awry is when someone decided to not follow the 12 Guidelines.”

[Control over final approval] “That’s an ongoing process and she [Pernille] has no history of controversy.”

“There is always the concern of poor representation. Even the magazine article that I mentioned had a sensationalized title, but if they read the article, they got what they needed.”

“AA really grew once it hit print media. Cleveland is looking at doing TV spots. AA does it here in three languages. AA is doing these types of things already. We wouldn’t identify as members of S.L.A.A.). I’m fine with that. I would love to meet with the producers.”

Several interviews were conducted by Pernille and her assistant during their March 2008 visit to Washington, DC, Austin, TX, and San Diego, California, thanks to members of the BPRC and their outreach to members within S.L.A.A. The Danish documentary team plans to return to the U.S. possibly as early as June to continue their research and conduct interviews. If you are interested in sharing your experience, strength, and hope, you should contact the BPRC at <http://www.slaafws.org/contact/bprc>. Pernille writes from her studio in Copenhagen, *“After arriving here back in Denmark I have been looking through the interviews and I am now working on how the film could play out. It is really interesting and I am so excited about his project and I will do everything in my power to make this a great film that will help the understanding of love addiction.”*

INTRODUCTION TO KIM B., OUR NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBER

Hi, my name is Kim B., and I am a Sex and Love Addict. I was appointed to the Board of Trustees (BOT) on March 6, 2009. I look forward to serving on the BOT in whatever capacity my Higher Power has for me.

I came to S.L.A.A. in the spring of 2003. My sobriety date is May 2004. S.L.A.A. is my second 12-step Fellowship, but it feels like sex and love addiction is my core issue. I struggle daily with showing up, staying present, standing my ground when I need to, and asking for help.

When I came to S.L.A.A., my relationship with my husband was insane, though I probably would have denied it if asked. I had no words to express how I felt or what I needed. I was very unhappy, but couldn’t have told anyone exactly why. Since coming and working the Steps, I’ve learned I have to let myself feel vulnerable and to tell my husband how I feel. I can listen to what is going on in his life without judgment or trying to fix it. I’ve learned I can say that I need a hug and, I’m not a bad person if the person I ask can’t give me one. I will live. As I write this, I realize that it all sounds very anorexic, but

my outside history of a string of acting-out relationships looked much more like sex and love addiction than my inside feelings expressed here.

In S.L.A.A., I have gone from being “madly in love” to “wanting a divorce” to living with someone who I greatly respect and want to be with. Life is what it is. I just have to keep showing up and be open, honest and willing.

I have served in many capacities in the S.L.A.A. Fellowship. In groups, I have been treasurer, speaker, leader, and group representative. I sponsor individuals. In the New England Intergroup, I served as recording secretary, telephone volunteer, out-going mail coordinator, Vermont Weekend co-coordinator and co-facilitator, Chair and Vice Chair, member of the Activities Committee, and delegate to the Annual Business Conference/Meeting (ABC/M). As a Delegate, I served on the Conference Steps and Traditions Committee and Conference Journal Committee. On the BOT, I am now serving as the BOT liaison to the Prison Outreach Committee and Chairman of the Board Governance and Nominating Committee.

I cannot say enough about service. It teaches me about boundaries and it gives me opportunities to practice healthy relationships with many sober people. Being on the BOT is yet another growth opportunity for me. I look forward to meeting new people in my service as a BOT member and re-kindling friendships at the next ABC/M.

My Time on the Board of Trustees

by Chris D.

In the summer of 2004, I very innocently attended a meeting in northern San Diego County. My dear friend Roger was at the meeting and asked if I'd be interested in being on the S.L.A.A. Board of Trustees. Until then, I had never attended an ABM, been a delegate, or been on a Conference committee. I had always planned on becoming more involved at the F.W.S. level, but I was working as an attorney and that was taking most of my time. I asked how much time this commitment would take and I believe he said 10-15 hours per month (now that's funny). But I said “yes,” and all of a sudden it is five years later....

Without question, the most remarkable highlight for me about being on the BOT has been the dedication, intelligence, vision, and productivity of the four chairpersons who I have served under. First was Marcella, then Danielle, then Dan, and now Rita. Each has brought his or her own amazing strengths to the role. I can honestly say that seeing and experiencing who they are and what they've been able to accomplish has been humbling.

This is not to diminish the dedication or accomplishments of the other members with whom I have served and continue to serve. For example, the current Chairs of the Board Finance and Operating Committee, Richard, and the Board Public Relations Committee, Stephen, have each worked diligently

for several years as BOT members. Moreover, we each come to Board teleconferences with our own background, personality, and perceptions. However, when I finish a BOT teleconference, I am often in awe to have witnessed how the Higher Power works through those who have an interest in doing what's best for our beloved Fellowship and all of its members.

Another benefit of this type of service work is the opportunity to meet members from all over the world who I would not have met otherwise, and who I will know for the rest of my life. For example, I was on my first BOT teleconference hearing some of these voices for the first time, and we were giving our sobriety statements (three years of continuous sobriety is required to be a member of the BOT – we state our sobriety date at the beginning of the call). Deb W. stated her sobriety date and it was so close to my sobriety date that I got confused and gave myself an extra couple of weeks of sobriety! I made amends on the next call, but because Deb and I have similar sobriety and bellybutton ages, we have become very close. I now call her “Sis” and she calls me “Bro.” I may not have met her if it had not been for BOT membership.

I've served on two Board committees. The Board Governance and Nominating Committee was very interesting to me because of its mandate to find new Board members. Finding members willing to serve on the BOT felt like looking for a needle in a haystack, but was very gratifying whenever we found someone. The Board Public Relations Committee has been very educational because of some fun public relations opportunities and what I've been taught about the 12 Recommended Guidelines for Dealing with the Media.

Without question, the biggest project that I worked on was moving the F.W.S. office from Norwood, MA, to San Antonio, TX. Danielle, Deb, and I met telephonically at least weekly for over one year. That was quite a project! Of course, in an organization as large as ours, there were many different opinions about making such a big change. This reinforced the value of getting input from the Fellowship prior to making such decisions.

Although a major time commitment, I have met wonderful people and learned lessons about life and myself I would not have otherwise. In addition, BOT service has enhanced my sobriety. For those who appreciate our Fellowship and who wish to offer their service, please consider work at the F.W.S. level.

The FWS office is beginning the search for a webmaster the qualifications for this position are listed below. If you are interested please send your resume to the FWS GM's email address- lindafws@slaafws.org no later than September 1, 2009.

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



WEBMASTER

Compensation: \$500 - \$800 monthly,

SUMMARY

Under the general supervision of the General Manager (GM), designs, maintains, and updates the F.W.S. Website that includes the following:

- A main site located at <http://www.slaafws.org>
- An online store located at <http://store.slaafws.org>
- A web directory at <http://www.localslaa.org>
- Email addresses and email system administration
- An Intergroup and Lone Group database

ESSENTIAL JOB DUTIES

The following tasks are essential for this position:

- Alteration, addition, or deletion of pages on the F.W.S. Main Site.
- Providing support in the new content creation process for the BPRC and Web Team Task Force.
- Responsible for electronic mailing and support for the F.W.S. Newsletter.
- Working with the General Manager to administer and maintain Online Store and improve efficiency at the office where possible.
- Regular Drupal core and module maintenance and security updates.
- Regular Miva store core and module maintenance and security updates.
- Creation and maintenance of email address accounts for the above domain names and all intergroup websites on our servers.
- Continuing creation and maintenance of intergroup database project on localslaa.org in collaboration with the Web Team Task Force.
- Monitors emails pertaining to the website such as the posting of events, new group or intergroup listing information.
- Works with the Web Team Task Force about questions or concerns about web content.

- Training as needed for BOT and F.W.S. Staff needing to use website features.
- Will take on other web related responsibilities as need

QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Full knowledge of HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language)
- Full knowledge of CSS (Cascading Style Sheet)

Skill and Ability to:

- Skilled in Drupal Development and theme modification.
- Skilled in utilizing MySQL database and PHP applications such as Drupal.
- Skilled in Miva online store application.

Training and Experience:

Any combination of training and experience that could likely provide the required knowledge, skills and abilities would be qualifying.

TRADITION 7

Tradition Seven: Every S.L.A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

Respectfully submitted by: Chris D.

Self-support: By the time I got to my first S.L.A.A. meeting, I was deep in debt because I had defaulted on loans. I couldn't pay my bills (that is, be self-supporting) and maintain the relationship I was in. Naturally, the relationship won over the bills. For that reason, I associate not being self-supporting in my own life with living in addiction.

When the relationship ended and I joined S.L.A.A., I was forced to take stock of my wreckage, including my defaulted bills. After staying sober, working the Steps, and going to meetings, I again slowly became fully self-supporting. Part of that (and it took several years) was resolving my defaults. Now, being fully self-supporting in my own life is a symbol, gift, and responsibility of recovery. It feels right deep inside.

Because self-support is so important to me in my private life, the concept naturally flows to my S.L.A.A. group. After living so many years in fantasy, I am sure that I could justify to myself trying to manipulate F.W.S. or the landlord of the building where my group meets to minimize or share in the group's expenses. However, Tradition Seven reminds me that such conduct could interfere with my relationship with my H.P. Nothing is more important than that relationship.

Declining outside contributions: Every day there is another news story about a murder of a spouse or partner because of the breakup of a relationship. It’s possible that many of these acts are the consequence of untreated sex and love (or relationship) addiction. Consequently, when the general public understands this, and comprehends how S.L.A.A. could help and is helping, it is possible that donations to F.W.S. from non-members could make our program “rich” (Alcoholics Anonymous faced the same challenge when the public understood that program).

That may sound great in the short term. On the other hand, it is amusing to think about how we would reconcile some of the basics of our program such as spirituality, humility, and service work with a big bank account. If nothing else, there could be a conflict with our primary purpose. Instead of carrying the message to the sick and suffering sex and love addict, we’d be focused on what to do with extra funds. Additionally, there would be the temptation to change ourselves to make us more attractive to donors.

On the other hand, given the limited donations to F.W.S. from members, there is the argument that we could more effectively carry the message if we just had a few more dollars – and if we don’t get them from the Fellowship, why not ask for help from non-members? One problem here is that the process of determining how much money we should ask for, from whom to ask, and what to do with it, would take an enormous amount of time and energy from our trusted servants. Accordingly, we will leave our financial support to the Fellowship (and to our Higher Power) as stated in Tradition Seven.

CONFERENCE STEPS AND TRADITIONS COLUMN

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.

Is mentioning our sponsor's name to other members, or telling a member the name of another member with whom we had a conversation, breaking the tradition of anonymity? When I talk to my sponsor, should I avoid mentioning other members' names?

+++++

We are not meant to be anonymous to each other. The Eleventh Tradition states we are anonymous at the level of press, radio, TV, and film. However, there seems to be an element of shame and secrecy about who we really are. And, it is this element that keeps many of us anonymous. To the men and women I have sponsored, and the men and women I attend meetings with, I make it very clear that they have my permission to tell anyone that I am in this program and they are free to use my full name, my phone number, and any other information they deem helpful to anyone. Some years ago, I got a call from a man in Texas who had been to meetings in Nebraska. He moved to Missouri and then to Texas. He was in trouble and really needed to talk to someone. Mine was the only last name he knew and so he was able to contact me. We

talked about his situation and I got him in contact with some local S.L.A.A. members.

+++++

Regarding mentioning our sponsor's name to another member; I see no violation of Tradition 11. My reasoning is this; I am not ashamed of my sponsor and am proud to be associated with him. Also, someone might be talking with me about finding a sponsor and I can recommend my sponsor to that person. Of course, I have to realize that there might be some sponsors who would not wish to have their identity revealed for some reason known only to them. In the case that my sponsor asked that I not reveal his name, I am bound by respect to follow his request. Regarding mentioning other members' names to my sponsor; I also find no violation in this case for the same reasons stated above. I just need to be careful not to share another's personal stuff.

+++++

Regarding telling a member the name of another member we had a conversation with; I also see no violation of the Tradition in this situation, provided that I do not divulge personal information which should be held in confidence. I have found myself in the situation where I am discussing a subject with another member and I recall a conversation which I had with another member. I am comfortable bringing up that conversation and mentioning the name of the other member, if I remember it. The person, whose name I might mention, could perhaps have a deeper understanding of the subject and could possibly be of more help.

+++++

I do respect the wishes of any member who would prefer to be anonymous. I also have no objection to telling outsiders, on a need to know basis, of my participation in S.L.A.A. These others will have knowledge of the person I used to be, and, I believe, should know about this side of my life. The violation of anonymity, as I see it, would be to divulge my identity or the identity of other members to the press, TV, radio, film, internet, or any other form of public information. I do not look for other scenarios or try to read between the lines of the Tradition, I just read, believe, and follow it as written.

+++++

I like the comment "need to know." If I am recommending my sponsor to another, I have to share his name. But if I am identifying a piece of advice as coming from my sponsor, I see no reason to give his specific name other than "my sponsor." My home group prefers to avoid specific names of places, people or things so that my message is as generic as possible so that others can relate. If I am spreading gossip, there is certainly no need to speak at all, and I especially need to avoid using names. Therefore, I recommend thinking before using specific names. I certainly recommend avoiding using anonymity as a way to live in shame. I prefer to think of my anonymity as a way to stay humble rather than a way to cover up my shame.

+++++

Regarding this issue, I remember a sponsee who told me that she was careful never to tell her boyfriend my name. I asked her why. Her reply was very enlightening. She said there is a tendency to blame anything that he doesn't agree with in the relationship on the sponsor. So recovery is just easier if he doesn't have a specific target for his resentment. I hadn't thought about it from this angle before. It made sense. It is also easy for addicts (or anyone for that matter) to hear a name and transfer blame to that person. If names are kept out of the equation, then we are able to focus principles and not personalities. (Tradition 12)

+++++

The Conference Steps and Traditions Committee (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.

S.L.A.A. Creative Encouragement

Our bimonthly publication, the Journal, is an exciting growth opportunity for S.L.A.A. and for you.

Click here for more information.

You can also visit us at www.theSLAAJournal.org.

Bring It

*Excerpted by permission from the Journal
of S.L.A.A., March-April 2009*

Away with the waits
for baggage-filled ladies,
for short scenes galore,
of witless expressions,
of false devotion
and counterfeit love.
Away with empty stares
of dress avant-garde,
of smiles that never happened
but always seem imminent,
sprung from mutual desire
for pointless illusion.
Bring me the feeling
that I am enough
to bring to a party
and rest in mine own arms,
to walk with both hands
set to give and receive
whomever may pass willing
to share an embrace.
Away with the games
of losers and losers still
with words that would cut
like the playground accident
with dripping wet legs
and laughter from friends.
Away with my power
to commandeer your love
and bring to its knees
your hope of enchantment
as nothing becomes
of either intention.
Bring me the best of Your hand
and the holding of mine
as with or without sex
we manage to comprehend
with no extra words
and absence of excuse,
as sand trickles through
but never runs empty.
Away with the closet
with old smells and webs
of spiders long gone
and dehydrated roaches

that once saw some life
but now live with the dust.
Away with their judgments
that guess I must do
regardless of my truth.
Their mind is a screw
that unintentionally pierces
the peace of my soul.
Bring me the greatness
to do what I please
with pleasures of grace
that need not recede,
that opens the door
to gratefulness dear
with endearing shouts
of wealth from the poor.
- by Jackie K., Manhattan

What is *the Journal of Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous?*

The Journal is the creative heart and soul of the S.L.A.A. Fellowship, a basic recovery tool for S.L.A.A. groups and individual members, and it is a key outreach tool into areas that do not yet have an S.L.A.A. presence. It is the creative output of many members brought together to inspire, elucidate, and strengthen each member and each group within the fold of S.L.A.A. recovery. Sex addiction and love addiction are significant issues in our day. Everywhere from Romeo and Juliet to the nightly news we see the tragic outcome of sex and love addiction. When do we get to see the bright and hopeful story of recovery? Here in *the Journal*. Sex addicts; love addicts; sexual, emotional, and social anorexics; and the vast majority of us who suffer from more than one of these related maladies, come together to support one another in mutual recovery. *The Journal* is like a meeting in print. It is like an S.L.A.A meeting in print because it conveys the hope of recovery and the tools, attitudes, and perspectives that get us there. It conveys the importance of the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions that are at the center of the spiritual solution that makes recovery possible. It is one sex and love addict helping another. It is the sharing of experience, strength, and hope. It is the expression of recovery through the eyes of many.

Visit us at
theSLAAJournal.org
An Invitation for You

Enlarge your recovery by allowing others to get the same benefit that you get from reading *the Journal*. It is a great way to carry S.L.A.A.'s message of hope and practice the Twelfth Step. The

fellowship needs willing volunteers of all skills and levels of willingness and availability. Some sex and love addicts have no meeting in their area or the meetings in their area have become stale and repetitive. Through the variety available in *the Journal*, you can breathe new life into the groups and individuals that need refreshment. *The Journal* also fosters international unity, the core principle of our First Tradition. Here's what we can do together.

- We can formally or informally become a Journal Representative for our intergroup or home group, encouraging the use of *the Journal* as a source of topics, letting people know that there are Journals for sale, and ensuring that plenty of Journal subscription cards are always on the literature table.
- We can visit a local organization that deals with sex and love addicts in our area, bringing copies of *the Journal* along with a few pamphlets. The institution may be a treatment facility, a judicial entity, a large recovery club that welcomes varied literature, or a hospital.
- We can work with others to design and oversee outreach projects.
- We can help make phone calls to encourage Journal Reps and intergroups.
- We can design or print bulletins or posters that raise awareness.
- We can look through the opened service positions listed below to see if there is anything that fits our gifts and abilities. If you think that it is time in your recovery to grow to another level, email us at willingness@theSLAAJournal.org visit us at www.theSLAAJournal.org or call our Fellowship Wide Services Office during the hours of 9 AM to 5PM central time Monday through Friday at +1 210-828-7900 and inquire about becoming a Journal Representative for your home group or intergroup.

S.L.A.A. is Growing

Tradition Nine states that each S.L.A.A service entity is directly responsible to those they serve. In the spirit of Tradition Nine, *the Journal* recognizes its responsibility to both its current readers and potential future S.L.A.A. members seeking recovery. To reach more sex and love addicts that do not yet know of recovery, we're stretching further than ever before.

Open Service Positions

We're looking for people with writing, drawing, editing, layout, outreach, web design, production, and printing skills to assist in the creation of the new, deeper, more refreshing publication. Please assist us in creatively carrying the message of recovery.

Executive Director

The Executive Director of *the Journal* provides a leadership example and oversight of publication functions, overseeing editorial work, outreach, artistic direction, and subscription services. The Executive Director reports the status and health of *the Journal* to the Conference Journal Committee (C.J.C.) each month and monitors and promotes the self-sufficiency of *the Journal* in keeping with Traditions Seven and Nine. Candidates must have at least one year of continuous bottom line sobriety.

Editorial Assistant

Each Editorial Assistant assists the Managing Editor with the editorial process for each of the six annual issues of *the Journal*, including form, content, and aesthetic presentation. Candidates must have at least one year of continuous bottom line abstinence.

Marketing Director

The Marketing Director (also called the Outreach Coordinator) oversees the network of Journal Representatives in the interest of building *the Journal's* reputation worldwide, building subscription volume, and encouraging creative contributions of writing and visual art. The Marketing Director also cooperates with other S.L.A.A. service bodies to reach out to sex and love addicts throughout the world. Candidates must have at least six months of continuous bottom line sobriety.

Fulfillments Manager

The Fulfillments Manager oversees the printing and mailing of each of the six annual issues of *the Journal*. The Fulfillments Manager also ensures the legibility, aesthetic quality, and durability of the finished copies of *the Journal*. The Fulfillments Manager will evaluate the handling of subscriptions and help execute subscriber retention policy. Candidates must have at least six months of continuous bottom line sobriety.

Interested?

If interested in one or more positions, visit www.theSLAAJournal.org, select Contact *the Journal*, and send your contact information to us using the web form. We will treat your information confidentially in accordance with *the Journal's* Privacy Policy. If you do not have web access, you can call the F.W.S. Office at 210-828- 7900.

Publish Your Event

Let us know about your group or intergroup sponsored events. We will help you get the word out to our readership. You can submit a press release just as you would a story through www.theSLAAJournal.org, preferably several months in advance so participants have time to plan to attend. Event notices must be received at least one month prior to the issue date. The event notice deadline is December 1st for the January-February issue, February 1st for the March-April issue, April 1st for the May-June issue, June 1st for the July-August issue, August 1st for the September-October issue, and October 1st for the November-December issue.

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Summary

August 2, 2008

- The members of the 2008-2009 Board of Trustees were: Dan A. (Chair), Chris D., Richard C., Stephen S., Bob F., Liz D., and Rita H.
- At this first telephonic meeting of the 2008-2009 ABM year, the first order of business was approving the BOT meeting schedule. [As of January 3, 2009, the remaining scheduled meetings of the BOT are: January 31, 2009 regular, February 7, 2009 as-needed, March 7, 2009 regular, April 4, 2009 as-needed, May 2, 2009 regular, and June 6, 2009 regular.]
- The BOT also discussed inviting non-BOT members onto the Board committees (Board Governance and Nominating Committee-BGNC, Board Finance and Operating Committee-BFOC, and the Board Public Relations Committee-BPRC). This included consideration of re-inviting previous non-BOT members and inviting new non-BOT members.

- BOT planning and priorities, and Conference committee liaison roles were listed on the agenda as two separate topics; however, they were discussed together because they were related. The focus was on ways the BOT liaison can help support the post-ABM enthusiasm on the Conference committees. BOT liaison assignments were also reviewed
- Finally, the BOT looked at adopting a temporary policy of suspending quarterly transfers to help replenish the Prudent Reserve Fund. After careful consideration it was unanimously decided to make the quarterly transfer to the Prudent Reserve Fund of \$2,624.14.

September 20, 2008

- After the regular reports from the General Manager and chairs of the BOT Committees, the focus was reports from BOT liaisons and their respective Conference committees. The liaisons had already met with or had contacted most or all of the Conference committees and the liaisons reviewed committee activity and ways that the committees could be further supported in their efforts by the BOT.
- There was also a discussion about tasks currently done by F.W.S. staff that could be eliminated or completed differently to save time.

October 11, 2008

- It was announced that Liz D. was the new Chair of the Board Finance and Operating Committee, after Richard C. had served in that position for three years. As the new Chair of BFOC, Liz presented BFOC's priorities.
- There was also mention of the BOT priorities exercise conducted at the 2008 ABM. Dan agreed to forward the spreadsheet of priorities so BOT committees could review and report back to the full BOT.
- Richard C. presented a status report on the licensing agreement with the United Kingdom. This topic remains on BFOC's agenda with reports to the BOT as progress is made.
- Liz D. made a presentation regarding the 2008-2009 budget to be voted on the at the next BOT meeting, November 1st.
- There was also a detailed discussion about the New Content Website Protocol. This process was developed to determine group conscience about the content of the slaafws.org website. It was agreed that BPRC will continue to work on the protocol obtaining further input before approval.

November 1, 2008

- It was announced that the responsibilities of supervising the General Manager had become the responsibility of Liz D., Chair of the Board Finance and Operating Committee. This was part of an effort to reduce the responsibilities of the BOT Chair.

- There was a change in BOT liaison to Conference Committees roles. Dan A. became liaison to the Public Information Committee and Stephen S. became liaison to the Journal Committee.
- Most of the time of the meeting was taken discussing the 2008-2009 fiscal year budget. The budget amount of \$285,000 was unanimously approved.
- The website-content approval process was also discussed. The BOT agreed to implement the amended process on a trial basis.

November 16, 2008

- This was an unscheduled emergency meeting of the BOT. The focus of the meeting was Dan A.'s resignation as Chair of the BOT and from the BOT as a member. The BOT expressed gratitude for Dan's service. Dan also answered questions regarding pending projects.
- Rita H. was elected Chair of the BOT.

January 31, 2009

- This was the first regular business meeting facilitated by Rita H., the Chair of the BOT. She announced that a summary of BOT minutes will be drafted for each meeting and provided to the Conference Newsletter and other program publications.
- The BOT Chair will be visiting the F.W.S. office in San Antonio from Montreal on March 31 – April 9, 2009.
- The Chair of the Board Finance and Operating Committee discussed the efforts being taken to find a CPA to audit F.W.S.'s financials.
- The Board Governance and Nominating Committee has two new members, BOT member Stephen S. and non-BOT member Tom F.
- There was discussion about the webmaster's resignation and options to retain another.
- There was discussion regarding the location of the 2010-2011 ABM/C and IRC and that no Intergroup had expressed interest in hosting either or both events for either or both years.
- The BOT agreed that without the minutes from the 2008 ABM, follow-up discussion of the ABM IFDs was not possible at this meeting.

March 21, 2009

- Kim B. was welcomed to her first BOT meeting as a new BOT member. Chris D. will be her BOT mentor. Kim will be assigned BOT liaison roles at a future date.
- Beth S. has been hired as the F.W.S. Webmaster as of April 1, 2009, for a three-month trial period.
- The Board had presented several Issues For Discussion on the 2008 BMIS. They included:

08n01 What should be the maximum amount an individual may contribute directly to the Fellowship-Wide Services general fund in any given fiscal year?

08n02 Should there be a separate policy regarding contributions to the Augustine Fellowship Prudent Reserve Fund? If so, should there be a limit on the amount an individual may contribute directly to the Augustine Fellowship Prudent Reserve Fund in any given fiscal year? If there should, what should that limit be?

08n03 What should be the policy regarding earmarked contributions for special projects? In particular, should F.W.S either solicit or accept earmarked contributions for special projects?

The BOT had reviewed the applicable minutes of the 2008 ABM to see what the Conference comments were on each to determine whether to propose motions at the 2009 ABM. After reviewing these comments and several round robin discussions, the BOT determined not to propose any motions based on the Issues For Discussion.

- There was extensive discussion about whether and how to publish the S.L.A.A. Basic Text in the United Kingdom. The intent is to save the United Kingdom Intergroup the considerable transatlantic shipping and handling costs. The BOT chair was to contact John from the U.K. Intergroup to let him know that the BOT's intent is to have the Basic Text published in the U.K. but that the details remained to be determined regarding costs, storage and distribution.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES
Conference Literature Committee (CLC)

May 15, 2009

Good people of the S.L.A.A. Fellowship:

The CLC has had a most beneficial year. We've worked on new literature and new draft documents. We have also spent some time grappling with the administrative and managerial components of literature development. The amount of work done by the CLC members has been gratifying.

Two documents that were distributed for comments last year as Items For Discussion (IFDs), *Romantic Obsession* and *People of Color*, have been completed. Revisions were made to both documents based on the comments received from the fellowship. Both are CLC Motions for conference approval at this year's Annual Business Meeting (ABM).

One document from last year, *Tools To Achieve And Maintain Sobriety In S.L.A.A.*, underwent further changes based on the comments received last year. It is on this year's Business Meeting Item Summary (BMIS) again as an IFD. It is evolving into a booklet that shares the experience, strength and hope of our fellowship. Comments are invited from the entire fellowship.

The CLC has had several discussions about the copyrighted *Sex and Love Step Recovery Booklet*. Discussions surrounding the adoption of texts that have been previously copyrighted are continuing. This booklet may appear as an IFD this year's ABM.

A new draft document, *Triggering Language and Behaviors in Meetings* has also been submitted as an IFD. Here too, comments are invited from the entire fellowship.

The CLC has not had sufficient resources to provide a draft from the *Basic Text Index Project* Team and an IFD will not appear this year. It is hoped that this project will be completed during the 2009-2010 Service Year.

Some really exciting news is that an *SLAA (DASA - Dependentes de Amor e Sexo Anônimos) Daily Meditations* project has been undertaken. This project was initiated by an inspired member of SLAA (DASA) in Brazil. Several months of daily meditations have already been drafted and contributed to the project. And, a member of SLAA has stepped forward in service as a Portuguese-to-English translator. A writing team has been partially assembled. This may be the first time that an international literature development project has been undertaken by our fellowship. Much work remains to be done.

Finally, CLC members have begun discussions that are scratching the surface of growing the several aspects of the literature development process to match the maturation of the fellowship and the conference. This ongoing discussion was initiated to begin grounding the CLC members in the requirements for managing and administering the literature development life-cycle process. Discussions are ongoing.

As always, with so much activity and so many projects underway, new members of the CLC are always needed. So whether you are just a regular member of our wonder-filled fellowship - or a member of the conference - or an Inter-group delegate - we, the members of the CLC need your participation. Please, regardless of your personal interest in the CLC, spread the word across our fellowship about the projects already underway for the upcoming 2009-2010 service year.

Tools To Achieve And Maintain Sobriety In S.L.A.A. – complete project

Triggering Language and Behaviors in Meetings – complete project

Basic Text Index Project – submit as an Item For Discussion

Sex and Love Step Recovery Booklet – complete project

SLAA (DASA) Daily Meditations – form project and development strategy, continue development

If you have any questions or need more information please send an email to

<http://www.slaafws.org/contact/Conference+Literature+Committee>

Submitted with love, respect and gratitude, yours in recovery

Leon C., CLC Chair (2006-2009)

Conference Internet Committee

A warm hello to fellow-members in recovery from the Conference Internet Committee (CIC), It has been an exciting year since the last ABC/M and the CIC looks forward to adding new members to grow our resources and service to the Fellowship. The CIC was reactivated at the 2008 ABC/M and has enjoyed much intercommunication via both email and teleconferences. All are welcome.

The largest accomplishment in this past year is working with the Board of Trustees (BOT), Board Public Relations Committee (BPRC), and newly established Webteam in a joint collaborative effort to handle a procedure growing out of the 2008 ABC/M. The “New Website Content Approval Process” and how the CIC responds is now a CIC Subcommittee. The CIC Review Subcommittee (CICRS) remains ready, willing and able to assist.

A member of the CIC formed a “Telemeeting Intergroup” in November 2008 that continues to meet monthly to coordinate and support the Trusted Servants from all the S.L.A.A. recovery telemeetings (currently nine as of May) and other virtual reality recovery meetings. See the links at <http://www.localslaa.org/> for telephone and online meeting information. To provide service, please contact the Conference Internet Committee (<http://www.slaafws.org/committeecontacts>) with your willingness.

We also provided a document to all Conference Committee Chairs in February 2009 called “Draft IT Guidelines (9/15/08)” or “Internet and Information Technology Guidelines and Considerations.” This evolving document helps clarify administration of Google Groups for Conference Committee Chairs. If you are any Subcommittee using Google Groups and haven’t received this, please ask for a copy of these suggestions from the CIC (<http://www.slaafws.org/contact/Conference+Internet+Committee>) or your Conference Committee Chair.

To lessen the burden on the S.L.A.A. FWS Webteam, we humbly ask that any technical or Internet-related questions that are NOT specific to additions/changes/deletions from the FWS Website (<http://www.slaafws.org/>) are directed to the CIC for assistance. FWS Website updates or FWS email account updates should continue to be directed to the Webteam. Both contacts are available from <http://www.slaafws.org/contact/>. We appreciate in advance this courteous discretion to minimize labor.

The CIC looks forward to S.L.A.A. members joining and assisting our Conference Committee in the coming years. While some members might think “Internet Committee” – yikes, how could I help? – the simple answer is that our Conference Committee grows very strong THROUGH a collaborative group conscience that requires members from all knowledge levels. We are NOT just a “techie” group diving into computer code! We are a team of people that also requires complete “computer newbies” to help

us enhance our world from ALL eyes. A primary goal is to carry the message of recovery to the addict unable to easily access real time (face-to-face) meetings. If you can turn on your computer and get to your email program – you are well on your way to helping us make the Internet decisions that Fellowship Wide Services needs towards carrying the message. All are welcome.

Respectfully yours in service,

Tim F., on behalf of the Conference Internet Committee (CIC)

<http://www.slaafws.org/contact/Conference+Internet+Committee/>

CONFERENCE ANOREXIA COMMITTEE

New CAC Telemeetings Event Series

As part of the CAC's efforts to submit Anorectic content to the 12x12 book, 3 telemeetings are scheduled for Saturdays at 11 am EST, 8 am PST and 5pm Europe, on May 23, 30 and June 6. This will be a closed meeting series focusing on steps 4, 8 and 11 (meaning participants will sign up in advance of the 1st meeting) and all participants will be asked to commit to writing a sharing sheet per week on each step that will be forwarded to the 12x12 book committee. Maximum participation number will be about 15 people in order to preserve the intimacy of the step work. To participate in these step telemeetings please email <http://www.slaafws.org/contact/Conference+Anorexia+Committee>

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 S.L.A.A. 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 with these steps!

- Anorexia recovery material is a field that is very much still developing and growing. 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 Steps 1, 2 or 3 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 Steps 1, 2 and 3 to your life?
- In addition to shares on Steps 1, 2 and 3, we are also collecting meditations that focus on anorexia and steps 1, 2 and 3. Some may ask: "What would I write as a meditation on Step 1?" A source of ideas for a meditation - your daily dialogues with God, the things you ask God for in moments of powerlessness, fear, willfulness, when intimacy issues arise, or simply when you feel triggered. Meditation can simply be seen as a conversation with your Higher Power.

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

“ANOREXIA RECOVERY PLANS” PAMPHLET

Two S.L.A.A. members have recently formed a writing team to create a pamphlet entitled “Anorexia Recovery Plans.” The purpose of this pamphlet will be to give members, newcomers and old-timers alike, a concrete guideline for identifying behaviors they want to decrease (forms of “acting in”) and to substitute them with replacement behaviors/ activities. The idea is to structure anorectic recovery in a way that success is then measurable. This writing team welcomes new members. To help with this writing project please email <http://www.slaafws.org/contact/Conference+Anorexia+Committee>

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 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.

2008 Annual Business Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the 2008 Annual Business (ABM) Meeting are now completed. Read what actions were taken on the Items for Discussion and Motions presented at last year’s ABM. You can access these minutes by clicking on <http://www.slaafws.org/services/2008ABMMinutes.pdf> or on the FWS website at www.slaafws.org

You can contact the editor of the FWS Newsletter by emailing fwsnews@slaafws.org or dwall111@aol.com.

From: Call Squad Oversight Team
To: S.L.A.A. Intergroup and Group Contacts
Date: May 27, 2009
Re: June 2009 Intergroup Discussion Items

Dear Intergroup and Group Contacts,

Summer is upon us and there is tremendous activity taking place Fellowship-Wide – thank you for playing a key role! You are making a difference by carrying the message to Intergroups and Groups, helping to grow the S.L.A.A. Fellowship. Per usual, what follows are the topics to bring to your Intergroups/Groups – thanks in advance for spreading the word!

Business Meeting Item Summary (BMIS aka Agenda) Review for ABC/M July 14-17, 2009!

As you know, we are right around the corner from the Annual Business Conference/Meeting (ABC/M) in July and your input is necessary to the process. On May 30, 2009, the revised BMIS with comments from Conference committees and the BOT will be distributed Fellowship-Wide for discussion. You will note that there are topics that could impact the S.L.A.A. Fellowship as a whole and your feedback is important. Upon receipt of the updated BMIS, please review and discuss at your Intergroup. Then submit comments or questions to the BMIS Editor at bmis_editor@slaafws.org. You will also be able to access the BMIS online at <http://www.slaafws.org/node/39>.

While you're at it, offer a friendly reminder to Delegates who have not yet registered and/or paid yet for this year's ABC/M that the **Registration and payment deadline is Friday, June 5!** Encourage Delegates to submit their paperwork and registration fees! This can be done online now at <http://www.slaafws.org/node/39>.

***the Journal* is looking for Journal Representatives -*the Journal* is a bimonthly publication prepared by members of Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous. This valuable recovery tool offers personal stories, writings on important recovery topics, poetry and humor, as well as world-wide announcements and event listings. *the Journal* hopes to have a Journal Representative at every Intergroup and Group. If you haven't already done so, please mention this service opportunity at your Intergroup and we'll have more info on *the Journal* after this year's ABC/M. Should you have any questions regarding *the Journal*, contact thejournaleditor@slaafws.org.**

Once again, we cannot say enough about how your efforts are helping to carry the message to the addict who still suffers. What a gift of sobriety and to the Fellowship at large – thank you!

**In service,
Call Squad Oversight Team
Email: CSOT@slaafws.org**