



Fellowship-Wide Services Newsletter

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Fall 2010

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

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What's Inside:

The Roles of the Board of Trustees Chair and General Manager Supervisor

Filling the Service Role of Chair of the Board of Trustees

Board Positions and Terms

A First Draft of the S.L.A.A. Twelve Concepts of Service

The Alamo and the ABM

FWS General Manager's 2010 Annual Report

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

KEEP THIS DATE Flyer for the 2011 International Recovery Convention in LA- 35th Anniversary!

2010 ABM Motion Summary

2010 ABM/C Stats for Attendees 2008-10

International Page- Lu's Story in English and Polish

Ayana P.-Newly Elected BOT Member

Conference Committee Corner

the Journal Announcement

Conference Steps & Traditions Committee

NEWS STATION INQUIRY

PRIVACY AND ANONYMITY

The 12 & 12 Book Report

CSTC Traditions Study Subcommittee

The Roles of the Board of Trustees Chair and General Manager Supervisor

For as long as I can remember the Board of Trustees (BOT) chair has been the supervisor to the General Manager (GM) of the F.W.S. Office. In fact, I have fulfilled these two roles since November 2008 until the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) 2010 in San Antonio, Texas August 10-13th when the BOT chose two separate BOT members to fulfill these two roles.

This separation of roles was decided with careful consideration and preparation. In July 2008 at the 3-day BOT meetings prior to the ABM the BOT discussed the workload and realized it was easily 20-40hrs/wk for a BOT chair/GM supervisor. This was deemed unsustainable and a succession plan was suggested.

This past year Leon C., a BOT member elected in 2009 for a three-year term, indicated he would be willing to take on the responsibility of the BOT chair. From February until now I have met weekly with Leon to discuss the duties of this position in an effort to facilitate the succession. Leon C. is now the new BOT chair as of the BOT elections at the ABM 2010.

In May 2010 I moved from the Board Governance and Nominating Committee (BGNC) to the Board Finance and Operating Committee (BFOC) as the GM supervisor to become more familiar with the responsibilities of this BOT committee. I was re-elected to the BOT for another 3-year term and have been confirmed as the GM supervisor for this new Conference year by the BOT.

Normally the BOT chair serves on the BGNC and now the GM supervisor serves on BFOC. The BOT during this year's 3-day meetings prior to the ABM 2010 discussed the job descriptions of the BOT chair, GM supervisor and BFOC chair to provide clarity for each role and how it will impact the FWS Office and GM plus staff.

The BOT chair will deal with matters concerning the BOT and the legal entity of the non-profit corporation called The Augustine Fellowship, Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, Fellowship-wide Services, Inc. The GM supervisor will focus on the office and supervision of the GM including performance evaluations and concerns from the membership about the office.

In service,

Rita H.

August 15, 2010

Filling the Service Role of Chair of the Board of Trustees

My name is Leon and I am a grateful sex and love addict. I have been saying that at meetings since my sobriety date of November 26, 1989. I retired 2 ½ years ago after a long corporate career in Information Technology, Information Security and Risk Management. I also was a Church Organist and a Choir director for a very long time. I was elected to the Board of Trustees (BOT) at the ABC/M in July, 2009, and the Board selected me to be the Chair for the 2010-2011 service year.

I chose the long title for this short essay because I really am only filling the role of Chair of the BOT. I am not the Chairman in any conventional context because I am only a trusted servant and I do not govern. I'm reasonably certain that I am supposed to be a leader – and I view the entire BOT as leaders – we are peers – in fact, I think all of us sex and love addicts doing service work for our Fellowship are peers. We just carry different levels of responsibility during our terms of service. For example, the BOT is legally responsible for matters regarding our corporation.

I know very well about progress not perfection. Every year a new Board is formed. I feel that I have a responsibility to continue the work started by previous Boards. One of those areas is planning – if we are to lead the Fellowship, then we need to have some sort of a map – some sense of direction. As far as I can tell historically, every Board has done planning. During this year's face-to-face meetings, the BOT decided to revisit the process of Strategic Planning. As far as I can tell, Strategic Planning was originally used in 2003 to identify a number of goals that were implemented by the then Board. This year, we met for an entire afternoon solely to discuss strategic planning – and that included revisiting last year's plans to determine what had been completed and what needed to be carried forward. It was an invigorating process. A short set of long-range goals (or objectives) were identified. Although the Board has not arrived at a group conscience as yet, I do want you to know that the first two goals on the list are the 12x12 Book and the Twelve Concepts.

I am deeply grateful for all the trust given to me by all of you in the Fellowship. Thank you. I am grateful to the Board for asking me to be their leader for a while. I thank them. I look forward to working with the new Board of Trustees, the members of the Conference, and all of our Fellowship. All of us, working together with our Higher Power, can make a difference. All of us, working together with our Higher Power, can continue reaching out to the sex and love addict who still suffers.

This is shaping up to be another wonder-filled year of learning for me. I am already working hard to do my part, stumbling along the path of service with my Higher Power illuminating my way. In closing, I share a reading I memorized years ago. I use it like a prayer before (and often during) *any* service meeting I attend. It helps me stay centered.

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore I will trust you always though
I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Thomas Merton

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Board Positions and Terms

Members of the Board of Trustees (BOT) are either elected or confirmed (if previously appointed) at the Annual Business Conference/Meeting. This year three BOT Members were elected at the *ABC/M 2010* to three-year terms. Board members are listed in the table in order of seniority on the Board.

BOT Member	Elected or Confirmed	Current Term Expires	Remaining time of current term
Richard C ¹	2008	2011	One Year
Rita H ²	2010	2013	Three Years
Kim B	2009	2011	One Year
Tom F	2009	2011	One Year
Leon C	2009	2012	Two Years
Ayana P	2010	2013	Three Years
Ken F	2010	2013	Three Years
<i>Open</i>		2012	Two Years
<i>Open</i>		2012	Two Years

1 – Richard C was elected to his first three-year term in 2005

2 – Rita H was appointed to her first three year term in 2008

Note that there are three positions open each year to allow for service rotation while providing continuity in the business of the fellowship. For more information about elections of BOT Members please see pp 29-31 of the *Conference Service Manual* (CSM). Information specific to BOT members can be found in *Article VI – Board of Trustees* on page BL-10 of the *By-Laws*.

With Respect and Gratitude,
Your servant - Leon C
BOT Chair

A First Draft of the S.L.A.A. Twelve Concepts of Service

At this year's ABC/M, the Board of Trustees (BOT) submitted an Item for Discussion (IFD) about adapting the Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) 12 Concepts of Service for use in our Fellowship. In addition, there was a one-hour presentation that compared the first draft to the Twelve Concepts of Service from A.A. and Al-Anon. The 2008 BOT formed the Concepts Task Force (CTF) to make recommendations to the full BOT about adapting the A.A. *Twelve Concepts for World Service* for use in S.L.A.A. S.L.A.A. has received permission to adapt only the short form of the A.A. *Twelve Concepts for World Service*. The CTF delivered its recommendations to the Board Governance and Nominating Committee (BGNC) in December, 2009 and disbanded. The BGNC, as well as the full BOT, through several rigorous group conscience discussions, agreed to the first draft this past July. At this year's ABC/M, the baton was passed to the Conference.

Note that once work on our Twelve Concepts is completed and approved by the Conference and BOT, a copy will be sent to A.A. to complete their copyright permissions cycle.

The table below shows the historical time-frames from inception of various 12-Step fellowships until an adaptation or adoption of the Twelve Concepts was approved.

Fellowship	Year Started	1st Conference	Year Accepted
A.A.	1935	1951	1962
AI-ANON	1951	1961	1968/84
NA	1953	1971	1989
OA	1960	1962	1994
CA	1982	1984	1987
SA	1976	1981	1994/2004
SAA	1977	1989	1990
S.L.A.A.	1976	1984	2008*

* *formed a CTF-Concepts Task Force*

***a first draft of the S.L.A.A. Twelve Concepts presented as an IFD to the ABM 2010*

This year, the presentation from the Board concluded by listing the “Next Right Things.” I encourage our entire Fellowship to explore all of these items during the next year.

- ✓ The Fellowship is encouraged to read and study the [“A.A. Service Manual Combined With Twelve Concepts for World Service”](#) and/or “*Paths to Recovery ~ Al-Anon’s Steps, Traditions and Concepts.*”
- ✓ Delegates and volunteers are invited to take “A First Draft S.L.A.A. Twelve Concepts of Service” back to their Intergroups, Groups, and Meetings to discuss what the Twelve Concepts really mean to the service structure.
- ✓ Everyone in the Fellowship is invited to determine how “A First Draft S.L.A.A. Twelve Concepts” needs to be changed and the changes that ought to be made.
- ✓ The Board of Trustees hopes that a motion for Conference approval of an “S.L.A.A. Twelve Concepts of Service” will be made in the near future.

In addition, the Conference By-Laws Committee (CBC) has assumed responsibility for reviewing the First Draft of the SLAA Twelve Concepts of Service relative to the *By-Laws of the Augustine Fellowship, Sex and Love addicts Anonymous, Fellowship-Wide Services, Inc.* The wording in the draft Twelve Concepts and the By-Laws needs to be reconciled. Members of the CBC include Rick B. (FL) Chair, Sam M. (TX), Richard C. (MA), and Leon C. (TX). Other members of the Fellowship are invited as contributing participants. In addition to the two books mentioned above, other important background material can be found on the www.AA.org web site, such as the [Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated](#), which was distributed to all the delegates at this year’s ABC/M.

The AI-Anon web site contains the following brief, easy to understand explanation.

“The Steps are the foundation for personal recovery in Al-Anon, and the Traditions help Al-Anon groups sustain their unity and fellowship. The

Twelve Concepts of Service provide guidance for service in the Al-Anon fellowship.”

Information from the ABC/M related to *A First Draft of the S.L.A.A. Twelve Concepts of Service* will be posted on our website soon.

A First Draft of the S.L.A.A. Twelve Concepts

July 14, 2010

- I. Responsibility and authority for The Augustine Fellowship, Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, Fellowship-Wide Services, Inc. should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.
- II. By delegation, the Fellowship-Wide Services Conference of S.L.A.A. is the voice and the conscience of all our activities.
- III. To insure effective leadership, each element of S.L.A.A. - the Conference, the Board of Trustees, staff, and committees - all possess the “Right of Decision.”
- IV. The “Right of Participation” is retained and maintained by allowing a voting representation of Conference members as outlined in the By-Laws.
- V. The “Right of Appeal” and personal grievances receive careful consideration so that the minority opinion is heard.
- VI. The Conference recognizes the administrative responsibilities of the Board of Trustees.
- VII. The Board of Trustees is responsible for the legal and financial matters of the non-profit corporation called The Augustine Fellowship, Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, Fellowship-Wide Services, Inc. The Conference relies upon tradition and the power of the purse for effectiveness.
- VIII. The Board of Trustees is the administrator of overall policy and finance with custodial oversight of the Fellowship.
- IX. Good service leadership at all levels is important for functioning and safety. The Board of Trustees assumes leadership at the worldwide service level.
- X. Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with job descriptions and duties well defined.
- XI. The Board of Trustees needs the best possible committees, staff, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.

- XII. The Conference shall observe the spirit of S.L.A.A. Traditions -
- a. taking care that it never endangers our fellowship through wealth or power;
 - b. that sufficient operating funds and prudent reserve be its prudent financial principle;
 - c. that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others;
 - d. that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity;
 - e. that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy;
 - f. that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

I ask all of you to please join together as we undertake the journey towards the Twelve Concepts of Service.

With respect and gratitude –
Your servant, Leon C.
BOT Chair

THE ALAMO AND THE ABM

One of the members at the BBQ Friday night asked if we'd gone INSIDE the Alamo on our visit there by the Riverwalk in San Antonio. I replied, "No, but we saw the IMAX Alamo movie, and we walked the Riverwalk a bit." Oh, the member responded, "You have to go IN to the Alamo. It is a sanctuary."

Likewise with the ABM. The ABM was a sanctuary, a sacred place WITHIN, which for 3-7 days we "got up, prayed up, washed up, dressed up, ate up, showed up, sat up, and listened up. (Plus sweated up and sweated up too!). Mostly we looked up and over to one another and invited HP to be with us as we shared experiences, strengths, and hopes.

The KIN-dom of the ABM is like the Alamo. The spirituality, serenity, and sobriety of the battles fought to let the ego die and the new Self-in-healthy-relation-to-other/Other rise up from the ashes of our addictions are wonderful witnesses that carry the message to the newcomers who suffer. Gratefully, a 2010 volunteer, Beth L, Montreal

FWS General Manager's 2010 Annual Report

Hello All,

The F.W.S. Office and staff continue to work to improve office operations and services. Unfortunately, the current economic situation has affected the number of contributions and the volume of sales in a negative way. The office has managed to accomplish a number of its goals while having only the GM and one full time employee (Richard Gallegos) on site. This situation has caused both employees to assume greater responsibilities and a heavier workload. Never the less the office is still committed to providing quality service. FWS has one contract employee (Beth S.). As our webmaster, she provides a

multitude of invaluable services. I want to recognize Richard and Beth's hard work and dedication to the mission of office and to the fellowship. In the near future, we hope to hire a part-time employee.

Although, a budget of \$275,000 was approved by the BOT in November 2009 the General Manager and BOT agreed to function with a budget of \$250,000. Attached are the 9-month financial reports for October 1, 2009-June 30, 2010 with comparison to the previous year. A draft budget for the fiscal year 2010-11 was discussed during the FWS financial presentation on Tuesday afternoon at the 2010 ABM.

Some highlights of accomplishments this year are:

- ❖ Filing of the IRS reports for 2009. (August 11, 2010)
- ❖ Annual Reports for State of Massachusetts. (August 11, 2010)
- ❖ Annual Reports for State of Texas.
- ❖ Hiring of the Webmaster.
- ❖ Hiring of a Bookkeeper.
- ❖ New Payment Gateway for on-line store.
- ❖ New Lone Group, Group and Intergroup registration database.
- ❖ Reformatting of English pamphlets.
- ❖ Reformatting of Spanish pamphlets.
- ❖ Reformatting of Newcomers Packets.
- ❖ Weekly staff meetings that include discussions on the Twelve Steps and Traditions; and, General Manager attends weekly AI-Anon/AA meetings.

Ongoing items that still need to be addressed include:

- Timely response to emails, phone calls and letters
- Improved monthly financial reporting and accountability
- UK printer
- Package tracking project
- SOP's for Office Operations

Respectfully submitted,

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

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08/06/10

Accrual Basis

The Augustine Fellowship, S.L.A.A., F.W.S.

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

October 2009 through June 2010

	Oct '09 - Jun 10	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Income			
40000 - ABC/M Income			
40100 - ABC/M Fundraiser Income	0.00	1,499.99	-1,499.99
40200 - ABC/M Registration	21,541.00	18,750.13	2,790.87
40300 - ABC/M TEF Income	3,750.00	3,000.01	749.99
Total 40000 - ABC/M Income	25,291.00	23,250.13	2,040.87
41000 - Contribution Income- Campaign			
41100 - Groups	2,430.09	2,250.00	180.09
41200 - Individual	3,401.50	3,000.01	401.49
41300 - Intergroups	222.00		
Total 41000 - Contribution Income- Campaign	6,053.59	5,250.01	803.58
42000 - Contribution Income- Regular			
42100 - Groups	39,707.48	32,999.99	6,707.49
42200 - Individuals	26,265.92	18,000.00	8,265.92
42300 - Intergroups	18,781.24	8,724.01	10,057.23
Total 42000 - Contribution Income- Regular	84,754.64	59,724.00	25,030.64
44000 - Contribution In-Kind	0.00	374.99	-374.99
45000 - Investments			
45010 - Dividend, Interest (Securities)	0.00	6,674.99	-6,674.99
45000 - Investments - Other	7,225.64		
Total 45000 - Investments	7,225.64	6,674.99	550.65
49000 - Operations Income			
49010 - Booklets	2,946.47	3,267.00	-320.53
49020 - Bookmarks	185.75	282.74	-96.99
49030 - Books	62,196.50	56,680.51	5,515.99
49040 - CD's/Tapes	5,236.70	7,327.49	-2,090.79
49050 - Journal	2,270.50	1,499.99	770.51
49060 - Medallions/Chips	13,803.36	13,521.74	281.62
49070 - Other Product Sales	7,270.02	6,219.76	1,050.26
49080 - Pamphlets	35,860.41	35,220.01	640.40
49090 - Postage	22,933.74	23,625.00	-691.26
49100 - Starter Kits	592.20	675.00	-82.80
49150 - Chargebacks - Miscellaneous	-278.40		
49200 - Merchandise Discounts	-3,650.04	-4,379.99	729.95
49300 - Merchandise Discounts - POC	-340.54		
49000 - Operations Income - Other	1,383.70		
Total 49000 - Operations Income	150,410.37	143,939.25	6,471.12
Total Income	273,735.24	239,213.37	34,521.87
Cost of Goods Sold			
50000 - Cost of Goods Sold			
50100 - Booklets	68.37	62.24	6.13
50200 - Bookmarks	16.66	52.51	-35.85
50300 - Books	10,646.05	10,380.01	266.04
50400 - CD's/Tapes	501.14	680.99	-179.85
50500 - Medallions/Chips	4,190.46	3,825.00	365.46
50600 - Other Products	4,289.93	3,112.51	1,177.42
50700 - Pamphlets	6,366.35	6,693.75	-327.40
50800 - Starter Kits	73.53	0.00	73.53
Total 50000 - Cost of Goods Sold	26,152.49	24,807.01	1,345.48
Total COGS	26,152.49	24,807.01	1,345.48
Gross Profit	247,582.75	214,406.36	33,176.39
Expenses			
60000 - BOT			
60100 - BOT Accommodation	1,027.98	187.51	840.47
60200 - BOT Other	326.59	187.51	139.08
60300 - BOT Record Keeper	360.00	374.99	-14.99
60400 - BOT Travel	230.93	300.01	-69.08

9:30 PM

08/06/10

Accrual Basis

The Augustine Fellowship, S.L.A.A., F.W.S.
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
 October 2009 through June 2010

	Oct '09 - Jun 10	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Total 60000 - BOT	1,945.50	1,050.02	895.48
61000 - BOT ABC/M			
61100 - BOT ABC/M Accomodation/Food	0.00	4,500.00	-4,500.00
61200 - BOT ABC/M Other	0.00	562.50	-562.50
61300 - BOT ABC/M Travel	133.00	1,875.01	-1,742.01
Total 61000 - BOT ABC/M	133.00	6,937.51	-6,804.51
62000 - Conference Expenses			
62100 - ABC/M Accomodation/Facilities	6,500.00	18,750.01	-12,250.01
62200 - ABC/M Other	633.55	1,875.01	-1,241.46
62300 - ABC/M TEF	0.00	3,000.01	-3,000.01
62400 - Conference Committee Expenses	151.32	562.50	-411.18
Total 62000 - Conference Expenses	7,284.87	24,187.53	-16,902.66
63000 - Contract Services			
63100 - Accounting Fees	5,968.00	5,999.99	-31.99
63200 - Legal Fees	0.00	1,499.99	-1,499.99
63300 - Webmaster Services	7,200.00	4,500.00	2,700.00
63500 - Contract Services - Other	874.87	187.51	687.36
Total 63000 - Contract Services	14,042.87	12,187.49	1,855.38
64000 - Facilities and Equipment			
64100 - Property Insurance	0.00	750.01	-750.01
64200 - Rent & Parking	24,196.59	24,562.49	-365.90
64300 - Telephone	6,856.92	4,500.00	2,356.92
64400 - FWS Website	1,785.71	562.50	1,223.21
64450 - Depreciation Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00
64500 - Equipment Leases Computers	2,665.73	5,437.49	-2,771.76
64600 - Equipment Purchases	0.00	187.51	-187.51
64700 - Equipment Rental Copier	5,935.15	3,749.99	2,185.16
Total 64000 - Facilities and Equipment	41,440.10	39,749.99	1,690.11
65000 - General Office Expense			
65100 - Bank Charges/Fees	376.60	374.99	1.61
65200 - Credit Card Fees	8,697.28	5,999.99	2,697.29
65300 - Dues, Fees and Licenses	610.00	374.99	235.01
65400 - Federal and State Fee	1,171.52	1,499.99	-328.47
65500 - Insurance - Liability, Wrk Comp	747.22	900.00	-152.78
65600 - Mileage	2,428.73	1,350.00	1,078.73
65700 - Staff Development	1,128.51	374.99	753.52
Total 65000 - General Office Expense	15,159.86	10,874.95	4,284.91
66000 - Operations			
66100 - Computer Supplies	1,309.22	562.50	746.72
66200 - Consumable Supplies	11,178.44	4,500.00	6,678.44
66300 - Miscellaneous Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
66400 - Outreach	0.00	187.51	-187.51
66500 - Packaging and Supplies	3,827.23	1,125.00	2,702.23
66600 - Postage, Mail Services	30,970.71	20,624.99	10,345.72
66700 - Printing and Copying	1,759.35	0.00	1,759.35
66800 - The Journal Printing & Paper	338.23	374.99	-36.76
66900 - Translation	0.00	0.00	0.00
66950 - 12 & 12	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total 66000 - Operations	49,383.18	27,374.99	22,008.19
67000 - Payroll Expense			
67100 - Bonuses	0.00	0.00	0.00
67200 - Employee Benefits	7,646.41	7,950.01	-303.60
67300 - Payroll Accounting	552.00	806.26	-254.26
67400 - Payroll Tax Expense	5,820.74	6,787.49	-966.75
67500 - Salary Expense	69,103.82	76,500.00	-7,396.18
67600 - Unemployment Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total 67000 - Payroll Expense	83,122.97	92,043.76	-8,920.79
68000 - Reconciliation Discrepancies	0.00		

Page 2

9:30 PM

08/06/10

Accrual Basis

The Augustine Fellowship, S.L.A.A., F.W.S.

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

October 2009 through June 2010

	Oct '09 - Jun 10	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Total Expense	212,512.35	214,406.24	-1,893.89
Net Income	35,070.40	0.12	35,070.28

**35TH S.L.A.A.
ANNIVERSARY
2011 INTERNATIONAL
RECOVERY CONVENTION**

HOLLYWOOD



**Coming Attractions
Save the Date!**

July 15-17, 2011
Los Angeles, CA

Workshops, Speakers, Special
Events and More!



For more information contact:
convention@slaalosangeles.org



2010 ABM Motion Summary

# and Motion/IFD	Vote	Action
<p>10o01/09n14-Motion: Change the second-to-last sentence of the S.L.A.A. Preamble from: "We find a common denominator in our obsessive/compulsive patterns which renders any personal differences of sexual or gender orientation irrelevant." To: "We find a common denominator in our obsessive/compulsive patterns, honoring any personal differences of sexual orientation or gender identity." (Conference Diversity Committee)</p> <p>Motion, as amended: Change the second-to-last sentence of the S.L.A.A. Preamble from: "We find a common denominator in our obsessive/compulsive patterns which renders any personal differences of sexual or gender orientation irrelevant." To: "We find a common denominator in our obsessive/compulsive patterns, accepting any personal differences of sexual orientation or gender identity." (Conference Diversity Committee)</p>		Removed from the BMIS by the submitters.
<p>10o02/09n15-Item for Discussion: This item asks the Conference to discuss the minimal requirements for service work at the conference committee level. In other words, what does this conference recommend as the <i>minimum</i> suggested sobriety requirements for conference committee work?</p>		See Official 2010 ABM Minutes for discussion on the website when posted.
<p>10o03/09n16Motion: The Fellowship shall fund the expenses of the CCC Chair to the ABC/M. (<i>Conference Committee Chairs</i>) 10o03/09n16: A friendly amendment was accepted by a vote of 41/5: "The Fellowship shall fund the expenses of the CCC chair to the ABC/M by the fellowship to the ABC/M if not attending as a delegate."</p>	<p>1st vote: 43-4-0. 2nd vote: 43-4-0.</p>	The motion passed as amended.
<p>10o04/09n07 Motion: Consistent with the unanimous positive response to the 2009 item for discussion titled Widening Publication Channels for Conference-approved Materials, it hereby is moved that the Conference permit the distribution of our basic text, Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, through online stores and physical chains in the interest of improving outreach effectiveness and increasing F.W.S. revenue, provided</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no exclusive sales agreements are entered into and • the S.L.A.A. name or logo is not used by the distributor outside of its mention in the product description. Examples of such distribution channels are Borders, Amazon, and Barnes & Noble, and there are many others. (<i>South Florida Intergroup, c/o Douglas D. and Steve B.</i>) 	<p>1st vote: 30/16/1. 2nd vote: 17/27/3. 3rd vote: 24/22/1.</p>	<p>The motion passed. There was a challenge to group conscience. Vote: 13/32 The motion passed, but the conference voted that this is not group conscience.</p>
<p>10o05/09n11-Motion: To approve "Triggers As A Resource – In Meetings and Beyond" as Conference Approved Literature. (<i>West Coast Writing Group / CLC</i>)</p>	<p>1st vote: 27/15/5. 2nd vote, 24/18/5.</p>	The motion passed.
<p>10n06-Item For Discussion: Discuss in more detail the proposed S.L.A.A. Twelve Concepts as presented by the BOT at the 2008 – 09 ABC/M. For example, what do we need to do to adapt the AA 12 Concepts for World Service to reflect the experience of S.L.A.A.? What are the processes, objectives, milestones and deadlines? What is the service plan?</p>		See Official 2010 ABM Minutes for discussion on the website when posted.

10n07-Item For Discussion: How do we define good service leadership / trusted servant-ship? How do we encourage, maintain and support this? How do we transfer our experience and understanding of service / trusted servant work to those that come behind us in the Fellowship?		See Official 2010 ABM Minutes for discussion on the website when posted.
10n08-Item For Discussion: The Literature Suite Subcommittee of the C.L.C. requests brainstorming ideas and suggestions that will be used to formulate a Literature Plan. This plan will be presented to the Literature Committee for further action.		See Official 2010 ABM Minutes for discussion on the website when posted.
10n09-Item For Discussion: Does the definition of anorexia in the brown Anorexia pamphlet, adopted by the Conference in 1992, and does the current wording of Steps One and Twelve and Traditions Three and Five accurately reflect the current wisdom of the S.L.A.A. community regarding anorexia and its relationship to sex and love addiction?		See Official 2010 ABM Minutes for discussion on the website when posted.
10n10-Motion: To amend the 'Romantic Obsession text passed by the Conference in 2009 as submitted. <i>(Board Public Relations Committee</i>	1 st vote: 46-1-0 2 nd vote: 46-1-0	The motion passed.
10n11 Item For Discussion: To discuss a consistent standard for use in S.L.A.A. literature concerning the terms "bottom line" and "top line" when publishing new literature for the S.L.A.A. Fellowship.		See Official 2010 ABM Minutes for discussion on the website when posted.
10n12-Motion: To add the following sixth resource to the current list of five major resources in the preamble: "Self care. Our daily commitment to nurture well-being through top line behaviors that develop balance, meaning, and fulfillment in our lives." <i>(Conference Members Retention Committee (CMRC) c/o submitters 6 and 4., Palm Beach County Intergroup (Florida), From the Heart (group) Lake Worth, Florida)</i>	1 st vote: 20-22-2 2 nd vote: 27-17-3	The motion was tabled.
10n13-Motion: Approve the Measuring Progress pamphlet as Conference Approved Literature. <i>(Conference Literature Committee/Measuring Progress Writing Team)</i>		The motion was tabled.
10n14 Item For Discussion: That the conference consider the 12x12x12, the Steps, Traditions and Concepts, 36 Principles of Al-Anon as expressed in the book <u>Paths to Recovery/Les Voies du Rétablissement</u> to be treated in the way that AA literature is, in relation to CAL (Conference Approved Literature).		See Official 2010 ABM Minutes for discussion on the website when posted.
10n15-Motion: To approve the idea of developing an S.L.A.A. Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book. <i>(Board Of Trustees)</i>	1 st vote: 37/5/4 2 nd vote: 37/4/5	The motion passed.
IFD 10n16- Item For Discussion: To discuss the selling and the distribution of S.L.A.A. literature via the internet in e-book form. <i>(Santa Cruz, CA Intergroup, Submitter 6)</i>		See Official 2010 ABM Minutes for discussion on the website when posted.

Look for the full Annual Business Meeting Minutes to be posted on the website SOON!

ABC/M Stats 2008-10 as of August 12, 2010

	Jul-08	Jul-09	Aug-10
Voting Members	41	42	47
BOT	6	6	5
FWS staff	1	1	1
Journal editor	1	1	0
Delegates	33	36	41
New delegates	20	16	25
Intergroups	21	25	23
California	11	11	11
Los Angeles	4	3	4
San Francisco/EBay	2	3	3
San Diego	2	2	2
Sacramento	1	1	1
Santa Cruz	1	1	1
Orange County	1	1	0
Florida	2	1	7
Tampa Bay	2	0	2
South Florida	0	0	2
Palm Beach	0	1	2
Texas	3	5	3
Austin	1	1	0
Dallas	0	1	1
Houston	2	3	2
Canada	3	2	1
Montreal	2	1	1
Toronto	1	1	0
International	2	4	2
German Speaking Countries	1	1	1
UK	1	1	0
France	0	1	0
Ireland	0	1	0
Poland	0	0	1
Other	9	12	15
Chicagoland IL	2	2	2
New England MA	1	1	1
Northeast OH	1	1	1
Seattle WA	1	1	1
New York	1	1	2
Washington DC	1	0	0
Cincinnati OH	0	1	1

Western PA	0	1	1
Denver CO	1	0	0
Greater Delaware Valley	0	2	2
Tucson AZ	0	1	0
Central AZ	0	0	1
Oklahoma City	0	0	1
CT	0	0	2
Atlanta GA	1	0	0
Lone Groups	3	1	1
Easier Softer Way FL	1	0	0
Elizabethtown KY	1	1	1
Raleigh NC	1	0	0
Online	0	0	1
StaySoberJustForToday	0	0	1



International Page

Lu's Story

My name is Lu and I am sex and love addicted. Since July 2005, I am regularly and intensively attending S.L.A.A. meetings and involved in several activities organized within S.L.A.A. in Poland.

I was very lucky when I started to search for help in 2004, the darkest period of my life, when my internet addiction and sex and love dependency spoiled my relation with my wife, my partners at work, my board of directors, and co-workers. I got the chance to recover with people that were working a 12-Step program. Most of the people that I started to meet at the very beginning were, not only alcoholics working in A.A., but other people with violence and aggression problems, depression, compulsive eaters, for example. Nobody within my workshop group was declaring problems with sex, love, and internet compulsion. In the beginning, I did not at all understand how meetings and the Twelve Steps worked and I was even quite skeptical about it. With time, I could see how my addiction was affecting me and how basically similar the behaviors were with what other people were talking about.

In the period from Autumn 2004 till June 2005, I discovered a lot of myself. I also discovered how I could get what I needed from people at a time when I had nothing to offer. I was almost moneyless and was jobless. I got the most valuable things ever, for free, and nobody expected anything in exchange. They were always ready to listen, to tell my true history. As I wanted to stop my compulsive internet and pornography addiction, I decided to join a group of about 25-30 people and work on the 12 Steps, and for 16 weeks consecutively met every Monday. The strict rules for the group were a good discipline for me. We were demanded to be punctual, to be present, and prepared, and to read at least one chapter each time. Homework to be done. I had assignments to

be prepared at home during the week and presented on Monday. We could not be late or absent more than two times. It was a good lesson of being fair, answering honestly to questions, and "to make things simple".

When we were going to terminate the 12 Step cycle, we were asked if we had the readiness to sponsor another alcoholic? I said I would rather not, as I do not know the alcohol problem, but I can help people who have other addictions. That was my answer at that time, not yet knowing so deeply which real problem was mine.

To do so, I had to find people having the same problem as me. Andrew, an A.A. member suggested to read Patrick Carnes' book and to share with him my opinions after I read it

I got a clear picture of myself and my compulsive way of being. Andrew told me where I could find help and gave me the address of an S.L.A.A. meeting on Sundays at 5:00 PM nearby the Dominican's Church. I started to attend all the S.L.A.A. meetings.

Within a couple of months, I saw in S.L.A.A. members having big trouble keeping abstinence. Many people were at the 1st step and too few people were ready to sponsor beginners. In order to keep sobriety, I continue to attend S.L.A.A. and A.A. meetings too, understanding that their rules were more clear and sobriety was first

I was learning from the A.A. and bringing these habits to S.L.A.A., keeping attention to traditions and rules. In 2005-2006, there was also a delicate moment in S.L.A.A. in Poland. It was the moment when members made the decision to move to the original name of S.L.A.A. to the unfortunate Polish translation that exists in Poland since the beginning. It is AE, or "Anonymous Erotomans." Many people were not identifying fully with the new name. Others felt uncomfortable with the previous one. This took a lot of effort and a lot of explanation with warm discussions from Intergroup delegates at each Polish S.L.A.A. Conventions at least twice year. Finally the decision was made, materials re-translated, all prints and re-edits with the new logo and more people were identifying with the S.L.A.A. shortcut.

I did not have a sponsor in S.L.A.A. at that time. But, people asked me to sponsor. As I could not sponsor more than one person, I met with Eddy, Dario and few people and explained that we can organize a closed group that would work on the Steps 1, 2, and 3 using some existing materials and materials adapted from A.A.

The workshop met each Friday for 2 ½ hours. Many people were attending, preparing their real stories, reading it within the group, and sharing their own experience. This opened big trust within members and more people were keeping more sober and their self-confidence was improved. More people were meeting at Friday's workshop and people were supporting each other through telephone contact and regular meetings. There were safe and good relations. The number of meetings increased in other cities and more people were doing service within the S.L.A.A. community. These S.L.A.A. workshops are working still and we are improving the 4th Step materials.

I want also to mention one very singular experience that I had when I was asked by my friend, Rad, to be his sponsor. I said that my experience was limited but I will put all my efforts to help him. Rad was coming from another city and was alone in Warsaw, like me.

We started to work on the Steps 1-3. I was informed of his decision to change cities, moving to study in Ratisbona, Germany. We agreed that we can keep sponsorship on Internet and telephone counting on VOIP cheaper calls. This would not be enough for Rad, staying absolutely alone with his own problem in a foreign country. I read in the S.L.A.A. Basic Text about a written experience of "how to open a new S.L.A.A. group" and

suggested to Rad to search links with other people in the region facing the same problem, searching in open A.A. meetings, in order to find people sharing the same problems and need.

I was supporting him in his goal, and finally he got a contact through the German S.L.A.A. net of a person heading an S.L.A.A. group years before in that part of Germany, but right now, was left alone. Rad linked to that person and after few weeks they found a room and the first meeting in that city began. He was safe. He was happy and he initiated a new group, getting support and giving help to an S.L.A.A. member left alone without meetings in the surroundings.

I am today very grateful to God, to others, and S.L.A.A. that makes things happen and that more people get recovery. In Warsaw, we have about 7 groups meeting regularly, one 12 Step workshops, and getting updated on next steps 5-7. We also established an additional local Intergroup putting together all the S.L.A.A. groups from Warsaw and the Warsaw region called Mazovia. The Warsaw Intergroup is meeting once a month on the 1st Monday in the month. This helps us to be present, to solve problems when they rise, to supply literature when short, to bring support and, to integrate with other 12 Step groups.

Lu. S.L.A.A. Warsaw (Poland)

Lu's Story (in Polish)

Mam na imię Lu i jestem uzależniony od seksu i miłości.

W 2005 roku rozpocząłem moje zdrowienie w S.L.A.A. Dziś regularnie uczestniczę w mitingach, aktywnie służę innym i biorę czynny udział w wydarzeniach organizowanych przez Wspólnotę S.L.A.A. w Polsce. Miałem dużo szczęścia trafiając do Wspólnoty.

W 2004 rok zacząłem szukać pomocy ponieważ był to najtrudniejszy okres mojego życia. Moje czynne uzależnienie od internetu, od seksu i chorej miłości mocno zrujnowało moje relacje z żoną, z rodziną, partnerami i współpracownikami w pracy. Nie wiedząc dokładnie, gdzie szukać pomocy w tej trudnej dla mnie sytuacji, trafiłem do grupy ludzi, która pracowała nad jednym z programów 12 kroków. Większość osób, z którymi zacząłem się spotykać

i regularnie dzielić się swoimi, problemami trzeźwiała z innych uzależnień (alkohol, jedzenie, leki), miała problemy z przemocą i z innymi kompulsywnymi zachowaniami. Nikt w tych grupach nie ujawniał problemów z seksem, z romansowaniem lub z internetem. Na początku nie wiedziałem też jak mityngi i praca nad krokami działają i byłem bardzo sceptycznie nastawiony. Nie wierzyłem, że to prowadzi do jakiegokolwiek zmiany. Z czasem zacząłem rozpoznawać, że moje uzależnienie i moje kompulsywne zachowaniach miały te same mechanizmy, co u osób z innymi uzależnieniami, z którymi dzieliłem się doświadczeniem.

W okresie od jesieni 2004 do lata 2005 roku bardziej poznałem siebie i mój sposób funkcjonowania. Odkryłem ile mogę dostać od ludzi, jeśli tego potrzebuję, nie mając zbyt wiele do zaoferowania. Byłem wtedy prawie bez grosza i bez pracy. Jednak otrzymałem od ludzi najcenniejsze rzeczy, za darmo i nikt nie wymagał ode mnie nic w zamian. Byli zawsze gotowi mnie wysłuchać i mojej prawdziwej historii. Chciałem skończyć z moimi kompulsywnymi zachowaniami, niewłaściwym korzystaniem z internetu i z pornografią. Wtedy podjąłem decyzję o zapisaniu się do grupy 25-30 osób pracujących intensywnie przez 16 tygodni nad krokami, od 1 do 12.

Spotykaliśmy się punktualnie w każdy poniedziałek. Zawsze wymagano od nas przygotowania, zapoznania się z krokiem danego tygodnia, pisanie prac oraz gotowości do czytania przygotowanego materiału pozostałym uczestnikom grupy. Nie były tolerowane nieobecności lub spóźnienia. Rygorystyczne zasady grupy bardzo mnie

zdyscyplinowały. Praca domowa miała być zrobiona, i dobrze przygotowana. Na każdym spotkaniu dostawaliśmy listę zadań do wykonania i do przygotowania na kolejny poniedziałek. Była to dla mnie dobra lekcja uczciwości, stawania w prawdzie przed sobą, robienia rzeczy w prosty sposób, bez komplikowania. Kiedy zakończyliśmy pracę nad 12 krokiem, każdy z nas miał gotowość sponsorowania drugiemu alkoholikowi. Ja wiedziałem, że raczej będzie mi trudno sponsorować alkoholikowi, ale mogłem udzielać wsparcia. To była moja wiedza wtedy, kiedy jeszcze do końca nie miałem rozpoznanego mojego właściwego problemu. Żeby rozpoznać problem uzależnienia od seksu i miłości potrzebowałem znaleźć osoby, które miały taki sam problem jak ja. Pomógł mi w tym Andrzej, mój kolega ze Wspólnoty AA. Zasugerował mi przeczytanie książki Patrick'a Carnesa: „Od nałogu do miłości” i podzielenie się z nim wrażeniami po przeczytaniu książki. Dzięki tej książce stworzyłem dokładny obraz siebie i moich kompulsywnych zachowań. Andrzej powiedział mi też, gdzie mogę pójść po pomocy i podał mi adres niedzielnego mityngu przy kościele oo. Dominikanów w Warszawie. I tak trafiłem na mój pierwszy mityng S.L.A.A. Wszedłem do sali, powiedziałem o sobie i o tym, że chcę zaprzestać moich kompulsywnych zachowań. Przyjęto mnie wtedy do S.L.A.A i od tamtej pory uczestniczę w mityngach.

Po kilku miesięcznym uczestnictwie w mityngach, zauważyłem że wielu członków Wspólnoty S.L.A.A. ma problem z zachowaniem abstynencji i często słyszałem o „wpadkach” - co było rzeczą rzadką u alkoholików. Wiele osób w swojej pracy zatrzymało się na poziomie pierwszego kroku i bardzo nieliczna grupa miała sponsora z powodu małej liczby osób, która była gotowa podjąć się sponsorowania. Aby zachować trzeźwość uczestniczyłem równolegle w mityngach S.L.A.A. i AA, ponieważ odpowiadały mi zasady AA, w których trzeźwość była na pierwszym miejscu.

Wszystkie rzeczy, których uczyłem się na mityngach AA przekładałem na trzeźwienie w S.L.A.A. Szczególnie ważne dla mnie były zasady i tradycje, które wykorzystywałem w moim codziennym życiu w S.L.A.A. Lata 2005 i 2006 były bardzo trudne dla naszej Wspólnoty w Polsce.

To był okres kiedy większość uczestników Wspólnoty nadal definiowała siebie i mówiła o sobie jako Anonimowi Erotomani (A.E.), a nie uzależnieni od seksu i miłości. Pracowaliśmy z wykorzystaniem materiałów S.L.A.A., ale wszystkie słowa kluczowe dotyczyły erotomanii, a nie uzależnienia. Wynikało to z błędnego tłumaczenia materiałów na język polski. I tak Wspólnota istniała w Polsce od samego początku jako Anonimowi Erotomani (A.E.). Nadal wiele osób nie identyfikowała się z nowym określeniem czyli uzależnieni od seksu i miłości. Inni natomiast czuli dyskomfort w nazywaniu siebie anonimowymi erotomanami. Doszliśmy jako Wspólnota do momentu, w którym trzeba było dokonać zmian. Wymagało to wtedy bardzo dużo wysiłku, troski i uważności, żeby nikogo tym nie urazić. Głos każdego był i jest ważny w takich decyzjach. Zaczęły się długie dyskusje odbywające się w grupach, niekończące się debaty na ogólnopolskich spotkaniach Intergrupy, które miały miejsce 2-3 razy w roku. W końcu decyzja została ostatecznie przegłosowana na jednym ze spotkań Ogólnopolskiej Intergrupy i od tego momentu zaczęliśmy pracę nad nowym tłumaczeniem wszystkich materiałów, ulotek i książki dotyczącej 12 kroków. Uczestnicy zaczęli się przedstawiać na mityngach i określać, jako uzależnieni od seksu i miłości.

Nie miałem wtedy sponsora w S.L.A.A, a kilka osób prosiło mnie o sponsorowanie. Ponieważ nie mogłem sponsorować więcej niż jednej osobie na raz, a nie chciałem odmawiać, zacząłem rozmawiać z Adasiem, z Dariuszem i kilkoma innymi osobami na ten temat. Miałem pomysł żeby stworzyć grupę zamkniętą, która będzie pracować nad krokami 1,2 i 3

z wykorzystaniem materiałów na temat sponsorowania dawnego A.E. oraz materiałów i wskazówek z AA. Rozpoczynaliśmy pracę w formie „warsztatów krokowych” spotykając się w każdy piątek, by pracować przez 2 i ½ godziny. Wiele osób nie mających sponsora zaczęło uczestniczyć w tych warsztatach. Każdy z uczestników opisał część swojej historii związanej z uzależnieniem czyli 1 krok. Ludzie zaczęli się dzielić swoim doświadczeniem nabierając i dając sobie zaufaniem. Dzięki tej pracy coraz więcej osób zaczęła zdrowieć nabierając trzeźwości i wiary w siebie w procesie zdrowienia. Coraz więcej osób zaczęła uczestniczyć w piątkowych warsztatach. Wymieniali się telefonami, by wspierać się na odległość, co również było bardzo ważne i skuteczne. Tworzyły się

właściwe i bezpieczne relacje między uczestnikami warsztatów. Coraz więcej osób tworzyło nowe grupy i podejmowało służby we Wspólnocie S.L.A.A. Warsztaty krokowe nadal działają i trwają. Aktualnie w przygotowaniach są materiały do pracy nad 4 krokiem.

Chciałem jeszcze opowiedzieć jedno, wyjątkowe doświadczenie kiedy to mój brat w zdrowieniu Radek, prosił mnie o sponsorowanie. Najpierw byłem zdezorientowany. Potem powiedziałem mu, że moje doświadczenie w sponsorowaniu jest ograniczone, ale będę się starał jak mogę, żeby mu towarzyszyć. Radek nie był z Warszawy, lecz z małej miejscowości, gdzie nie było mityngów S.L.A.A. Mieszkał sam, tak samo jak ja w Warszawie. Zaczęliśmy pracę nad krokami 1-3, ale w pewnym momencie okazało się, że dostał stypendium na studia zagranicą i miał się przeprowadzić do Niemiec na 8 miesięcy.

Ustalaliśmy, że kontynuujemy pracę pomimo odległości. Proces sponsorowania odbywał się za pomocą internetu, maili i rozmów telefonicznych. W pewnym momencie jednak Radek dał mi sygnał, że to jest nie wystarczające i jest mu trudno samemu w nowym kraju z nieznanymi ludźmi bez codziennego wsparcia Wspólnoty. W Regensburgu, gdzie mieszkał nie było niestety mityngów S.L.A.A. Siła Większa spowodowała jednak, że pewnego dnia przeczytałem fragment Wielkiej Księgi S.L.A.A., „Jak utworzyć nową Grupę S.L.A.A.”. Natchniony zaproponowałem Radkowi, żeby zaczął szukać kontaktów w Niemczech za pomocą telefonu kontaktowego S.L.A.A. z osobami mającymi ten sam problem, żeby móc utworzyć grupę. Wspierałem Radka, aby osiągnął ten cel. Po dłuższym czasie udało się Radkowi nawiązać kontakt z osobą, która kilka lat wcześniej prowadziła mityng niedaleko jego miasta dopóki grupa się rozpadła. Radek nawiązał kontakt z tą osobą. Znaleźli miejsce gdzie mogli bezpiecznie rozpocząć spotkania, a w kilka tygodni później odbył się pierwszy mityng. Był uratowany! Był zadowolony! Założył grupę, otrzymał wsparcie i pomagał innym cierpiącym znaleźć wsparcie we Wspólnocie S.L.A.A. Jestem dzisiaj bardzo wdzięczny za to, że Bóg pozwolił nam tego doświadczyć i że coraz więcej osób otrzymuje wsparcie w obrębie S.L.A.A. W Warszawie, w mieście gdzie mieszkam, aktualnie jest około 8 grup, które regularnie spotykają się na mityngach i jedna grupa warsztatowa, która pracuje nad krokami. 2 lata temu powstała również lokalna „Intergrupa Warszawa”, która wspiera Grupy S.L.A.A. z Mazowsza. Intergrupa spotyka się co miesiąc, w pierwszy poniedziałek miesiąca. Obecność pomaga w przekazywaniu literatury, rozwiązywaniu problemów i pomaga integracji z innymi, mniejszymi grupami, które pracują na 12 krokach w S.L.A.A.

Dziękuję Wszystkim.

Lu S.L.A.A. Warsaw (POLAND)

Ayana P.- Newly Elected BOT Member

My name is Ayana P., and I am a gratefully recovering sexual anorexic. Every now and again, I read the FWS Newsletter issue that contains the introductions of the new BOT members. In my head, I'm usually thinking "Who are they? What's their story? What S.L.A.A. related matters are important to them?" So here are my answers.

I'm a NY native and I've attended S.L.A.A. meetings locally for the last 6 years. My story - I entered my first S.L.A.A. anorexia meeting when I was 31. I had never had sex and had not really dated anyone for the last 6 years. S.L.A.A. was my very first 12 -Step fellowship. I had never been to any other recovery meetings. But I was really desperate when I arrived - therapy simply had not solved my problem. I felt like a freak and my inability to date healthily shamed me deeply. Years have

past now and I am a very different woman with a whole new skill-set in relationships.

The S.L.A.A. matters that I am most passionate about: deepening the well of both Anorexia and Healthy Relationship solution-based recovery literature; creating meetings for couples in S.L.A.A.; cultivating an environment in S.L.A.A. where conformity is not demanded and where individual needs are honored in right sized ways; informing the helping professionals about S.L.A.A. recovery resources.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CORNER



the Journal

Join *the Journal* production team! The official magazine of S.L.A.A. offers several opportunities to be of service, like volunteering to become the Internet Tech to help develop *the e-Journal*, an online version of the magazine. Please contact the Executive Director at editor@theslaajournal.org or through our website at www.theslaajournal.org/contact.html where you may also find more information about open service positions.

Also if you are interested in brainstorming ideas to develop *the e-Journal* please consider joining the Conference Journal Committee which meets for an hour long teleconference once a month. Working on *the Journal* is one place to help expand the Fellowship and likewise expand your own recovery. Attached is a flyer you may print out and circulate to your meetings.

Need a nice service commitment?

The logo for 'theJournal' is displayed in a stylized, orange, sans-serif font. The word 'the' is in a smaller size and is positioned to the left of 'Journal'. The entire logo is set against a light gray rectangular background.

is looking for a qualified
Internet Tech

1. To oversee *the Journal* website
2. To develop *the e-Journal*

(The CJC voted to provide online subscriptions for the magazine of SLAA.)

We need your help!

No sobriety requirement.

Should have a background in web design.

Contact: **editor@theslaajournal.org**

www.theslaajournal.org

Conference Steps & Traditions Committee

NEWS STATION INQUIRY

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.

.....
Question: Recently our Intergroup received an inquiry from a news station doing a story on teenage sex addiction on the Internet. We returned a call to the reporter, but never heard back. Since the issue of teenage sex addiction affects S.L.A.A. as a whole, we wanted to inquire with the steps and traditions committee on how we might handle this issue if it comes up again. There are a host of legal issues to consider when dealing with minors and sex and we are not clear on how to handle. Any information you might be able to provide would be great.
.....

While the CSTC has never had a similar question presented, we do have a few thoughts regarding things which the Intergroup might consider.

Tradition 5: Each group has but one primary purpose to carry the message to sex and love addicts who still suffer......The internet is a very powerful medium and I suspect it serves to lure unsuspecting computer users into compulsive, addictive or obsessive practices on the internet.

Tradition 4: Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or SLAA as a wholeAny individual that responds to the inquiry from the news station would be sharing their individual experience, strength, and hope and would need to make sure to communicate that their opinions do not represent S.L.A.A. as a whole. I think the diversity with our program makes it difficult to respond to one specific symptom associated with sex and love addicts. It could potentially inhibit sex and love addicts with different obsessive, compulsive, and/or addictive characteristics from recognizing a commonality that could support their recovery. Add to the fact that the news station would be in control of what is broadcast. This could skew the public's perception of SLAA as a whole. **Tradition 11: Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, TV, film, and other public media. We need guard with special care the anonymity of all SLAA members**.....The individual responding to the news station needs to guard with special care the communication to ensure it is understood that they do not represent S.L.A.A. as a whole. The S.L.A.A. member can share their experience, strength, and hope but would need to be clear that no one person governs. And of course the S.L.A.A. contact would need to protect all other S.L.A.A. member's anonymity. **Tradition 9: SLAA ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to who they serve**.....our fellowship could help so many more sufferers of S.L.A.A. Maybe as a fellowship we should have a service board or committee that can represent the fellowship as a whole for press release purposes.
.....

Additionally, it might be suggested that the Intergroup contact the BPRC (Board Public Relations Committee) for further guidance. You might also consult the 12 Suggested Guidelines for Dealing with the Media, which is posted on the FWS website.

The CSTC is a group of volunteers, some of whom were AA 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 result of our discussions. We present the major points of concern in the hope 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.

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.

PRIVACY AND ANONYMITY

Our Intergroup has been considering putting an information packet together to distribute to the criminal justice system. We are trying to determine if leaving literature and contact information at the courthouses is in keeping with the Traditions. There has been some concern expressed about privacy issues. We would be grateful for your input.

.....

This outreach is not a violation of Tradition 11 regarding anonymity, because it does not identify individual members, and is information about, not promotion of S.L.A.A. "An Introduction to S.L.A.A." was written specifically for this kind of use. This outreach activity is a fine example of a group fulfilling Tradition 5 - our primary purpose is to carry our message to those who still suffer.

The privacy issue, and the reality of today's world, suggests that it is wise to have the contact information other than any individual's phone number, e-mail, or other address. If the local group or intergroup does not have a post office box, an answering service or web-site and/or a special e-mail identity created specifically for contact purposes, can be used. Another inexpensive contact point can be a post office box. Especially in prison outreach, safety practices protect the individuals in the outreach effort from unpleasant experiences and the inmates from the temptation to act out with intrigue.

.....

My understanding is that this outreach works one way but not the other. It is ok for us to distribute informational packets to treatment centers, therapists, and the criminal justice system. However, it is not ok for us to promote these facilities within our meetings. The way I understand it is that it is important, even necessary, for us to carry the message (Tradition 5) by attempting to educate others about our recovery fellowship. AA and Al-Anon even have commercials now for educational purposes. An informational packet at the criminal justice system would definitely come under the heading of attempting to educate others....and carrying the message. I would hope this could be done in a way that does not single out certain individuals but rather allows access of information of numerous recovery programs to all who might be interested. If this is not the case, perhaps individuals with this issue could be given packets by probation officers or case workers.

.....

In terms of outreach, putting together information for the justice system is a commendable thing to do. We realize that while all addicts are not offenders and all offenders are not addicts, there are a great many people in the justice system who would qualify as addicts.

In my area we did this a few years ago by sending out a letter to the county probation departments as well as to the parole authority to make them aware of our services. In order that we might keep the anonymity of the members of the Fellowship, we signed the letters as the Outreach Committee of (name omitted) Intergroup. We also included the phone number to our information line as well as our web address for their convenience. We also included the pamphlet "For the Professional."

Because IDs are commonly checked as we enter government buildings, it would be difficult to use a pseudonym to go in personally to deliver the information. This could then draw unwanted attention to the individual and to the program as a whole. As a guide the Intergroup could refer to the pamphlet of the 12 Guidelines for Dealing with the Media and adapt the suggestions to this outreach.

I do not believe that this would be a violation of any of the Traditions regarding anonymity.

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 result of our discussions. We present the major points of concern in the hope 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.

CSTC – 12 & 12 PROJECT

With the passage of the motion, at the 2010 ABM, to go forward with the 12 & 12 Project, the 12 & 12 Subcommittee of the CSTC and the BOT will be moving forward with plans for financing the project and outlining what sort of process will take place prior to turning it over to a professional writer/editor. We are very excited to know that we have the support of the Fellowship in this project and vow to make the dream become a reality.

We continue to request sharing sheets from the Fellowship regarding the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. These can be short comments or longer submissions. They might even include writings on your experiences with the Steps and Traditions. We solicit a good cross section of the Fellowship to submit writings. We want to have the experiences and shares from female, male, LGBT, people of color, anorexics, former prisoners, International members and any other groups not mentioned. This is important because this book should represent the experience, strength and hope of the entirety of the Fellowship. This includes newer members and long-timers of all ages. We suggest that you submit your sharing sheets electronically via the FWS website. We would hope that someone in each group could submit electronically. If the shares can be sent individually it is much easier to count and categorize. But if this isn't possible, we will accept handwritten, typed or group copies.

In addition, we welcome you to join our Friends of the 12 & 12 mailing list. You will receive updates periodically regarding the need for additional shares and other information as available.

We also have an immediate need for transcribers to transcribe the numerous written sharing sheets (boxes full) into a Word document so that these can be stored electronically and be readily available as the project progresses.

If you are interested in volunteering or becoming a Friend please contact us through the FWS website.

CSTC TRADITIONS STUDY SUBCOMMITTEE

The Traditions Study Subcommittee continues to discuss questions submitted from the Fellowship and provide sharing sheets for the 12 & 12 Project based on our study of and experience with the Steps and Traditions. If you have a question which you would like for us to discuss, please submit it through the FWS Website and your question will be added to our schedule. We do not speak with authority nor do we represent the views of S.L.A.A. as a whole. We present thoughtful and studied discussion of each question and present the entire discussion for your consideration. Please keep these brief and make them as general as possible so that we can protect the anonymity of the submitter. We do edit for content when the question is too specific or too long, including the necessary facts of the question. All inquiries and responses are published in the FWS Newsletter. We request that each inquiry be signed and include contact information so that you may receive the first copy of the discussion and in the event that we need to have something clarified.

Keep watching the CSTC page on FWS Website this fall for a project we have been preparing. This is a summary of the questions which we have discussed during the past 3 years. This should provide some useful information for the Fellowship regarding many topics of general interest.

CPOC REPORT

The Conference Prison Outreach Committee is a very active, very busy committee and can always use more volunteers. We welcome new members to the committee at any time and welcome additional pen pals to help us in our 5th Tradition work. We are always receiving requests from inmates for pen pals and literature and strive to fulfill every request.

For your safety and security all inmates are screened and are made aware of what is and is not appropriate, as well as what they can expect from their pen pal. If you are interested, please contact us and we will get more information out to you.

We are also interested in partnering with Intergroups who would like to start their own local Prison Outreach Program. If your Intergroup is interested, please contact us and we will give you access to our information.

All contact can be made through the FWS website, www.slaafws.org under the Fellowship Wide Services tab, click on Prison Outreach Committee to send us an email.

Update of the Conference By-Laws Committee

The Conference By-Laws Committee has been re-activated. We will be reviewing the By-Laws and the 12 Concepts, working with various resources to see how we can gain another legacy. Anyone interested in the By-Laws or the 12 Concepts, please contact the CBC at the FWS website. We have an opportunity to work on the Third Legacy for S.L.A.A.

Submitted by Rick B., Chair of the CBC

AN INVITATION FROM THE HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
2010-11 TELEMEEETING SERIES – 3rd Saturdays Monthly (**DATE CHANGE!**)

Topic: Skills for Healthy Loving – New Dates

- September 18, 2010 **Affirming love behaviors:** acts that show emotional and moral support for the person we love; that show respect for and have a high value of the person we love.

- October 16, 2010 **Expressing love behaviors:** tones of voice, gestures, postures and facial expressions that show our love.

- November 20, 2010 **Verbal love behaviors:** words, pet names and phrases that show our expressions of love.

- December 18, 2010 **Self-disclosing love behaviors:** acts and words revealing intimate facts and unique aspects; being open and vulnerable.

- January 15, 2011 **Tolerating love behaviors:** acts showing an acceptance of the less pleasant aspects of the other - and doing so without judging the partner.

- February 19, 2011 **Tactile love behaviors:** physical contact demonstrating loving affection and loving sexuality.

- March 19, 2011 **Object/ gift love behaviors:** giving gifts that demonstrate how much we care for our partner. **Receptional love behaviors:** acts and words that show that we appreciate and acknowledge when any of the previous behaviors were done for us.

JOIN US AS WE EXPLORE HEALTHY LOVE BEHAVIOR!

These 7 one-hour telemeetings will be on **Saturdays, at 9:00am Pacific /12:00 PM Eastern / 5:00pm London**. SLAA members may attend any or all meetings without RSVP. Access code for everyone is **225844#**. To receive our schedule of telephone meetings and topics simply email:

healthyrelationships@slaafws.org.

****Call is recorded for later playback.****

Playback number: 712-432-1281 with same access code

Call in numbers

US: (712) 432-1600
Austria: 0820 4000 1552
Belgium: 070 35 9974
France: 0826 100 256
Germany: 01805 00 76 09
Ireland: 0818 270 021
Italy: 848 390 156
Netherlands: 0870 001 920
Spain: 902 886025

Switzerland: 0848 560 179
UK: 0844 581 910

Important Announcement About Group and Intergroup Registrations



Hello All S.L.A.A. Groups and Intergroups,

Thanks to your outreach efforts and service to carry the message, S.L.A.A. continues to expand around the world. This exciting progress means that the ID numbering system currently in place for groups and intergroups is outdated. In order for the F.W.S. office to more efficiently process contributions, fill online store orders, register delegates for the Annual Business Meeting, and answer requests for help and information, we need to assign new ID numbers based on a simplified format to all groups and intergroups. This registration process will also serve to update the information on the F.W.S. website

We are requesting all group and intergroups take five minutes to complete our new registration forms available on the F.W.S. website at the links below.

All S.L.A.A. Intergroups use:

<http://www.slaafws.org/forms/live/IntergroupRegistrationForm.pdf>

All S.L.A.A. Groups use:

<http://www.slaafws.org/forms/live/GroupRegistrationForm.pdf>

Registration of S.L.A.A. Intergroups and Groups should now occur on an **annual basis from the date we receive your form.**

Thank you for helping us to serve you better,
The F.W.S. Web Team

