



# Fellowship-Wide Services Newsletter

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## 2011 Summer Issue

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

Please take a copy to your meeting!

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### REMINDER

**2011 ABC/M July 12-15, 2011 San Diego, CA**

**Delegate Registration and Payment Deadline is May 28, 2011**

**44 participants already attending, are you?**

#### What's Inside:

Observations on the 2010-2011 Service Year: A Report from the Board of Trustees Chair

Latest Version of the FWS Supervisor's Report, May 2011

BOT Recruitment Flyer

Important Notice to All S.L.A.A. Groups and Intergroups re: anonymity

Announcements of Significant Email Discussions, Consensus, Motions and Votes for BOT Calls

Argentina Natalia's Story in Spanish

Argentina Natalia's Story in English

the *Journal*: Get a FREE copy

the *Journal*: Annual Summer Contest

Conference Steps and Traditions Committee Report

Conference Prison Outreach Committee Report

S.L.A.A. Literature Available-Flyer in English

S.L.A.A. Literature Available-Flyer in Spanish

FWS Newsletter Submissions Format and Deadlines

**Observations on the 2010-2011 Service Year**

## A Report from the Board of Trustees Chair

I volunteered for election to the Board in 2009 because I love S.L.A.A. and I had to continue to “walk the walk.” I had to make my words and actions match. I thought my skill set might help our S.L.A.A. Community. I was recently retired, so I had a few extra hours available each week. During the 2009 ABM, a delegate invited me to sit with her at dinner in the cafeteria. She asked me, “what I would do if I were elected to the Board of Trustees (BOT)?” I responded with, “I want to mature the process.” Right now, I can report that this Board has made, and continues to make, important progress in maturing its process and that of the FWS Office. God isn’t finished with us yet.

I believe that life is a god-deal. I am very grateful for all the lessons the members of this Board have provided. I know that I have grown spiritually and emotionally. They have taught me about emotional maturity and maintaining healthy boundaries. I have learned more about patience and group conscience. With the help of my Higher Power (HP) and the members of this Board of Trustees, I now see that Tradition 12 defines team-work. This BOT has been very productive.

Elsewhere in this and previous FWS Newsletters, you can find a lot more information about what has happened since our last ABM. You can find a trove of information in the bi-weekly reports from the Office Supervisor, all of which are available on our web site, [www.slaafws.org](http://www.slaafws.org).

The complete restructuring of the FWS Office and staff was, and still is, consuming a lot of this Board’s time and energy. Things could not continue the way they had been in the past. The highest priority office functions were identified and planned out. Those are temporarily being maintained by a combination of part-time and temp staff. In addition, volunteers from the Board<sup>1</sup> are performing such tasks as supervising the FWS Office and staff, paying bills, renewing contracts with vendors, and consulting with the CPA and the lawyer. This is temporary until we can begin implementing the second stage of a planning effort now underway. Changes at the FWS Office will continue. Things have improved and will continue to improve. The pace may appear slow, but it is always moving forward deliberately with group conscience. On the [www.Wikiquote.org](http://www.Wikiquote.org) site, I found the following description of the word patience - *Patience is the ability to endure waiting, delay, or provocation without becoming annoyed or upset, or to persevere calmly when faced with difficulties*. The HP of our Group Conscience showered us with love and support through the gift of patience.

Transparency has consistently entered our discussions and deliberations throughout this past year. We provide transparency through financial reports, updates in the FWS Newsletters and the regular reporting of the Office Supervisor.

I have hope because I know that our HP is always with us, providing loving guidance. Hand-in-hand with that is progress not perfection. Augustine of Hippo wrote - *Hope has two beautiful daughters. Their names are anger and courage; anger at the way things are, and courage to see that they do not remain the way they are.*<sup>2</sup>

Led by Tom F., the Board Finance and Operations Committee (BFOC) has had most of the Board’s attention and priority discussion at most BOT meetings. Note that the Office Supervisor reports

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<sup>1</sup> These BOT volunteers are the President, Treasurer and Clerk – the three officers of the non-profit Corporation.

<sup>2</sup> As quoted in *Spirituality and Liberation: Overcoming the Great Fallacy* (1988) by Robert McAfee Brown, p. 136

to the BFOC Chair. In addition, the BFOC Chair is also serving as Treasurer. Much has been accomplished. More lies ahead.

The Board Public Relations Committee (BPRC) is operating without a Chair, since the resignation of Kim B. at the end of the year. Ayana P. has been instrumental in keeping some of the priorities moving along. Additionally, Ken F. resigned from the BOT this spring. The contributions of Kim B. and Ken F. are missed.

Richard C. took the helm of the Board Governance and Nominating Committee (BGNC) during this year, his last of six fruitful years on the BOT. The Motions Index and Policy Index are in the process of being merged and the BGNC will lead discussions on Strategic Planning during our BOT Meetings in July. The BGNC has already qualified some new non-Board members of Board Committees and continues to do so. The BOT has acted positively, and we now have new non-Board members of Board Committees on board – joining are Curtis B. (BFOC), Tom B. (BGNC), Irv B. (BPRC), Steve B. (BFOC), and Rick B. (BGNC). There is a recruitment page elsewhere in this Newsletter. Please read it. We continue to seek qualified BOT Members to present to the full Conference.

After the last ABM, we had seven Board members. Five months later, we were six. Now the BOT is once again operating with five members. Seems our HP is providing lessons that need to be learned. We, the Board, continue to seek guidance and wisdom. Please send your prayers and wisdom. We need all the help we can get.

This has been a very good year for the Augustine Fellowship, Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, Fellowship Wide Service, Inc. The BOT normally meets once every two months – this Board has been meeting monthly since the last ABM. I am especially grateful to Richard C., Rita H., Tom F., and Ayana P. for their continuing love and support. It is because of their love of S.L.A.A., their recovery, their hard work, honesty, sobriety and emotional maturity, that so much has been accomplished. They have my complete trust because their words and actions match.

I am grateful to be your trusted servant-leader. I am grateful to all of you for giving me the opportunity to witness so many miracles of recovery in service. I am grateful for all your love and support and prayers – it all helps. Thank you all. May the God of your understanding shower you with the healing love to be found within the S.L.A.A. recovering community. I look forward to meeting and talking with you at this year's ABM.

With lots of unconditional love and support, I remain your trusted servant leader,

Leon C.

Board of Trustees Chair

## **F.W.S. Office Supervisor Report**

**May 13, 2011**

**Please copy and distribute.**

This is the 9<sup>th</sup> report to the Fellowship in an effort to keep members informed about F.W.S. Office operations. Previous reports are posted on the F.W.S. website [www.slaafws.org](http://www.slaafws.org)

### FWS Office Essential Services include:

- FWS Office is open 2 days/week, Mon and Fri 9:30-4:30pm CT. When staff is at the office they are busy filling orders and preparing for shipping. More positive comments are coming in about the reduced time to receive a package and there are fewer resends internationally.
- Phone messages are picked up twice a week by a volunteer and sent to appropriate staff/BOT/outreach volunteers to respond within a few days of receiving the message. There is an average of 20 messages/week with half being outreach. Outreach volunteers include male, female, and international members.
- About 125 orders come in each month mainly through the FWS online store but close to 20 arrive via mail, phone or walk-ins (walk-ins only when Board members present). There are 10 international orders/month and these require more time to prepare for customs.
- Mail is picked up by two staff and sent to the office supervisor weekly.
- The Office supervisor makes deposits and pays bills weekly.
- FWS website outreach emails average 12/month with a large number coming from spouses/partners. The FWS webmaster has created a page for these questions/requests for more information.
- The *Renewal of Sobriety* and *Sponsorship* pamphlets inventory was down and 5,000 copies will be ordered soon.
- The 4 free downloadable pamphlets posted on the FWS website have all been reformatted and are available online. You will notice a print date is now on the back of all pamphlets even the free ones. For example; FREEPAM 05 P05/11 is *Supporting S.L.A.A. The 60/40 Way* that has a print date of May 2011.
- Step chips 8-12 have been ordered and will be available by mid-June.
- The international speakers, Lu and Christine, for last year's ABM10 will be available on CD as well. A flyer will be prepared for these new items and how to order.

Outsourcing of the May/June 2011 issue of *the Journal* #130 is waiting for proof to the editor of the final edition made ready by the printer this week. A special 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary July/August issue is already underway and the Free Issue of *the Journal* for outreach will also be available during the ABC/M 2011 in San Diego.

### BFOC Chair and Office Supervisor Visit to the FWS Office June 2011

- The Office supervisor is at the office Sun-Wed June 12-22<sup>nd</sup>.
- The BFOC chair arrives Wed-Sun Jun 15-19<sup>th</sup>.
- Both will be working with staff to prepare for the ABC/M 2011. This includes the ABM Binders, Supplemental Packets and FWS store merchandise that will be sent to the hotel.

Delegate Registration and the ABC/M 2011 in San Diego July 12-15, 2011

- A total of 44 registrations have been received as of today for the ABC/M. **The registration and payment deadline is May 28<sup>th</sup>**. Registrations may be sent in by mail, fax and via the FWS Online Qgiv Gateway.
- So far 33 delegates have registered of which 13 are brand new (never been to an ABM).
- There are 5 Board members, 1 Journal editor, 1 CCC chair, and 4 observers.

If you have questions or comments let me know: <http://www.slaafws.org/contact/rh>

In the spirit of service,

Rita H.



## Please Consider Joining the **Board of Trustees** or nominate someone you know

### **Board candidates *must*:**

- ✓ Have three years of continuous, self-defined sobriety in S.L.A.A. (Non-S.L.A.A. members may also be on the Board. See below.<sup>6</sup>)
- ✓ Have a working knowledge of the 12 Steps and the 12 Traditions of S.L.A.A.
- ✓ Be willing to commit to a three-year term.
- ✓ Travel to the Annual Business Conference/Meeting (ABC/M) (4 days) each summer and participate in Board meetings 3 days before and 1 day after the ABC/M (expenses paid).
- ✓ Participate in monthly Board tele-conference calls, more frequent committee meetings and email discussions.

### **Board candidates *must*:**

- ✓ Have at least 20-30 hours a month to put into the position.
- ✓ Have experience in S.L.A.A. service at the Intergroup and/or Conference level.
- ✓ Serving as a delegate at the Conference for at least one year is a plus.
- ✓ Have skills and abilities valuable to the organization.
- ✓ Serving as non-BOT member of a BOT committee (BGNC, BPRC, BFOC) for at least 3 months is a plus.

### **\*Non-S.L.A.A. Board candidates *ideally*:**

- ✓ Generally know and love the S.L.A.A. Fellowship for how it has helped family, friends or clients.
- ✓ Have specific skills in areas such as legal, fiscal and business.
- ✓ Bring an added perspective due to being outside the S.L.A.A. program.

## **Please Let Us Know**

If you are interested in serving or know anyone who might  
be please contact

BGNC Chair Richard C. at [rkcmailbox@gmail.com](mailto:rkcmailbox@gmail.com)

Board Chair Leon C. at [LeonSLAA@gmail.com](mailto:LeonSLAA@gmail.com)

## Important Notice to All S.L.A.A. Groups and Intergroups

Personal anonymity and confidentiality is of utmost importance to the Fellowship of S.L.A.A. This is especially true on the Fellowship-Wide Services (F.W.S.) website. Many Lone Group and Intergroup listings are displaying personal phone numbers, mailing addresses, mobile phone numbers, and email addresses on the F.W.S. Online Directory. It is the policy of the Board of Trustees and F.W.S. Office to not post personal information on the F.W.S. website even if your contact person is okay with it.

Identifying information includes:

- **Personal email addresses, with or without a name, such as [petejones@myisp.com](mailto:petejones@myisp.com) or [sparklegirl21@someisp.net](mailto:sparklegirl21@someisp.net)**  
*--SUGGESTION: A general contact email address should be made with one of the many free services out there like yahoo.com or gmail.com, using the name of your Group or Intergroup, as in [somecityslaamonday@yahoo.com](mailto:somecityslaamonday@yahoo.com). This email address can then be checked by a designated contact person without compromising their anonymity. Another benefit to this is that your Group/Intergroup email address won't change with every new contact person.*
- **Residential Phone Numbers, with or without an accompanying name As in Call John Q. at 555-123-4567**  
*--SUGGESTION: There are a few free phone number options out there such as Google Voice or SKYPE that can mask your real number and route calls to any phone. People can call this Google number without divulging anyone's home phone number.  
<http://www.google.com/googlevoice/about.html>*
- **Personal mobile phone numbers, with or without an accompanying name**  
*--SUGGESTION: Again, consider a service such as Google Voice or SKYPE. If this is not an option for you, you could choose email as your public contact method. (see email suggestion above)*
- **Private residential mailing addresses**  
*--SUGGESTION: There is no reason to post a personal mailing address online. A P O Box may be obtained if a mailing address is necessary.*

A deadline of August 31, 2011 has been set for all Lone Groups and Intergroups that have listings on the F.W.S. website displaying personal content to send new contact information. After this date, all personal information will be removed from the F.W.S. website. This could leave your Lone Group or Intergroup without a listed contact method, so please do not delay. **If your listed contact method does not contain personal information or if your Group is not listed directly on the F.W.S. website at <http://directory.slaafws.org>, contacting F.W.S. is not necessary.**

Please do not give the F.W.S. Office phone number as the Group/Intergroup contact.

Send new email address and/or phone number to:

<http://www.slaafws.org/contact/Website+Questions>

--PLEASE include the FULL name of your Lone Group or Intergroup with the CITY, STATE, COUNTRY and ID number in the message.

If you do not have a new 8-digit Group or Intergroup ID number, please register for one at <http://www.slaafws.org/register> including your new contact info.

Thank you for your cooperation and service,

Beth S.

F.W.S. Webmaster

On behalf of the F.W.S. Office

#	Announcements of Significant Email Discussions, Consensus, Motions and Votes for BOT Calls	Date Adopted	Category	Result
	<b>Oct 2010 Call</b>			
	<b>Benetech Publication SLAA Basic Text</b> -Consensus was that Benetech's processing of the Basic Text was legal and that appropriate copyright protocols should be followed as far as copyright notice identifying the copyright owner and the date of the original publication.	13-Sep-10	Discussion	
	<b>IRC 2011 Financial Aspects and BOT FWS Inc</b> - The consensus was that the BOT wants to honor its policies regarding the IRC while simultaneously not endangering the fellowship's finances. Note: The BOT Chair signed the IRC contract for the hotel accommodations with the LA Intergroup on October 7, 2010.	3-Oct-10	Discussion	
1	<b>Motion:</b> "To transfer \$47,000.00 from the Vanguard / Prudent Reserve Fund as an emergency measure to be used to pay debt on the S.L.A.A. American Express Credit Card with the understanding that the monies to repay the Prudent Reserve Fund will be included in future budgets prepared by BFOC."	24-Sep-10	Discussion	7-0-0
	<b>Nov 2010 Call</b>			
	<b>BOA</b> - Consensus: The assigned BOT member would make a physical trip to Bank of America to get online access to the bank.	15-Oct-10	Discussion	



	<b><u>GM Discussions</u></b> - Consensus: Replacement of the GM should occur when she returns from sick leave.	17-Oct-10	Discussion	
	<b><u>Upcoming CJC Meeting</u></b> – BOT member should postpone any statement regarding CJC servants until a later time and at that time re-assess the necessity of this statement.	5-Nov-10	Discussion	
	<b><u>CPA and Texas Attorney</u></b> – BOT member would speak to the CPA and a Texas labor attorney to assist the STF with a planned dismissal of FWS staff.	4-Nov-10	Discussion	
	<b><u>BOT Nominations</u></b> – 7 potential BOT candidates and 4 non-BOT potential candidates named.	6-Nov-10	Discussion	
2	<b>“To Approve the Announcements for Sept 11th call doc”</b>	24-Oct-10	Motion	Motion made. No second.
	<b>“To approve the S.L.A.A. License to Reproduce and Distribute Copyrighted Work with Confirmation of Assignment of Copyright”</b>	6-Nov-10	Motion	7-0-0
3	<b>“Approve the recommended CTS Cease and Desist Notice re: the H.O.W. The Beginners Kit for distribution”</b> . Note: This item was then moved to the agenda of the BOT call for expanded discussion and vote.	9-Nov-10	Motion	2-0-2
	<b>Dec 2010 Call</b>			
	<b><u>BOA Statements Summary</u></b> - Consensus: The BOT would consult with the FWS CPA and a labor attorney to develop a plan for auditing the FWS office and terminating the FWS office staff.	8-Nov-10	Discussion	
	<b><u>IRC11 Los Angeles IG Withdraws</u></b> - Consensus: The BOT would contact the Westin Hotel in LA to cancel the contract for the IRC.	14-Nov-10	Discussion	
	<b><u>Google Group</u></b> – Consensus: To cease using the gplusbot Google Group.	20-Nov-10	Discussion	
	<b><u>FWS Office Status</u></b> - Consensus: The BOT Chair would send an article to the FWS newsletter announcing the news of the FWS staffing changes.	20-Nov-10	Discussion	
	<b><u>Staff Payroll</u></b> - Consensus:		Discussion	

	<u>Romantic Obsession Pamphlet: Where to Buy It?</u> – Consensus was to have the assigned BOT member inquire about the Romantic Obsession Pamphlet and receive an update regarding it being available for sale on the online store.	21-Nov-10	Discussion	
4	<b>Motion:</b> IRC Contract Termination	16-Nov-10	Motion	7-0-0
5	<b>Motion:</b> To approve the Sept 11 Internal Minutes and Summary	23-Dec-10	Motion	7-0-0
6	<b>Motion:</b> To approve the Oct 9th Internal Minutes and Summary	31-Dec-10	Motion	6-0-1
7	<b>Motion:</b> To approve the Summary of August 9, 11, 12, 13 In Person Confidential BOT Meetings	21-Dec-10	Motion	7-0-0
	<b>Jan 2011 Call</b>			
	<u>CFC Meeting Issues</u> - Consensus: To provide regular updates to the fellowship regarding the recent FWS office changes and personnel matters.	18-Dec-10	Discussion	
	<u>Conference Chairs Dec 2010 Conference Call</u> - Consensus: 2 BOT members would attend the call to answer any questions regarding the FWS office changes.	19-Dec-10	Discussion	
	Teenage Sex Addiction - Consensus: Teens who suspect that they suffer from Sex and Love Addiction are encouraged to start a "Teens Only" Meeting, run for and by teens.	28-Dec-10	Discussion	
	<b>Feb 2011 Call</b>			
	<u>2nd FWS Office Supervisor Report Jan 28th</u> - Consensus: The modifications suggested led to a report that was helpful to the Fellowship.	31-Jan-11	Discussion	
	<u>Non-BOT member of BPRC</u> - Consensus: BGNC would not object to the previous BPRC chair serving as a non-BOT BPRC member.	1-Feb-11	Discussion	
	<u>Teen Sex Addiction and S.L.A.A. Meetings Illinois</u> - Consensus: BOT member would reply to the S.L.A.A. member, indicating that we have no formal policy and alerting them to the legal challenges of teens attending S.L.A.A. meetings.	1-Feb-11	Discussion	

	<u>The HOW Starter Kit and Moving Forward</u> - Consensus: The BOT would postpone the publishing of the Cease and Desist Notice in the FWS newsletter in accordance with the request of the new H.O.W. CLC workgroup.	6-Feb-11	Discussion	
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## **INTERNATIONAL PAGE**



### **ARGENTINA**

#### **NATALIA'S STORY IN SPANISH**

Llegué al programa de SLAA hace aproximadamente 5 años, después de tener un romance que me desató inestabilidad, obsesión, desesperación, falta de sano juicio. Cuando llegué al programa, escuché el concepto de anorexia / bulimia sexual, social y emocional y descubrí que no era la única persona en el mundo que pasaba años sin sentir deseo o aislada, y luego se relacionaba compulsivamente y se perdía en los demás. Encontrarme con pares me alivió. Durante mucho tiempo tuve el corazón completamente cerrado. Me abandoné a mí misma, estaba triste, había olvidado cómo disfrutar, no podía darme lo que necesitaba.

Toda mi experiencia de recuperación tiene tres ejes: el trabajo de los pasos con i madrina, el vínculo con mis compañeros y el servicio. Allí volví a recuperar la confianza en mi capacidad de trabajo, puse mi parte para el mantenimiento del grupo y principalmente donde pude salir de mi egocentrismo y crecer espiritualmente, expandir el corazón. Fui ayudante de literatura, coordinadora, diseñé folletos y carteles, todas esas actividades tenían que ver con mis gustos personales, y volví a conectarme con el disfrute, la entrega, la productividad, la creatividad.

Podría decir que el servicio de madrinazgo es la primera experiencia de un amor desinteresado de verdad, ya que no hay nada del camino de mi ahijada de lo que mi ego intente apropiarse. Es un sentimiento de profunda entrega y maravilla ante los pasos de otra persona para florecer desde la enfermedad hacia la recuperación. Cada reunión con mi ahijada me convoca a revisar algo de los pasos que no estoy pudiendo ver, es como si el Poder Superior me enviara una señal a través de ella. No es fácil, sin embargo, abstenerme de dar consejos o de controlar; y es por eso que el servicio me lleva a trabajar mis patrones y conductas y como un boomerang me devuelve al 100 % lo que doy. Sin embargo, no son estos beneficios los que me mueven a hacerlo, ni el miedo a recaer, ni la obediencia al programa: hago el servicio porque la vida afuera de mi autoobsesión es muchísimo más interesante que adentro de mi cabeza.

SLAA Argentina estuvo durante 10 años funcionando con un solo grupo en el barrio de Palermo, al norte de la ciudad en Buenos Aires. Una compañera quiso hacer su paso 12 abriendo un nuevo grupo en la zona oeste de la ciudad para expandir el mensaje a otros adictos, y me sumé a su cruzada. Ese grupo se abrió hace 3 años. Yo hice el servicio de tesorería, en el que me tocó trabajar mi profundo desorden con el dinero, y principalmente hice el servicio de asistir al grupo. En 3 años no se sumaron más servidores, así que éramos 3 o 4 personas haciendo rotativamente todos los servicios. Tampoco recibíamos muchos recién llegados, así que el propósito primordial de todo grupo (llevar el mensaje)

comenzó a desdibujarse. De pronto sentí que el grupo dependía de mí y empecé a resentirme por lo que hacían o no hacían los demás, a exigirme, y me di cuenta de que no tenía más energía para “sostener” y que debía soltar.

El día que decidí soltar fueron al grupo 12 personas. Parecía un mensaje del Poder Superior, confirmando que él estaba a cargo y que yo sólo debía hacer mi parte, no todas las partes. Hoy estoy trabajando mi noveno paso, hago el servicio de madrinazgo y paso el mensaje siempre que puedo para que algún día se abran grupos de SLAA en otros lugares de Argentina. Cada servicio me mostró algo de mí misma, me ayudó a salir de la anorexia social y emocional y me dio herramientas que hoy aplico en cada una de mis actividades fuera de la confraternidad. Natalia

### **NATALIA'S STORY IN ENGLISH**

I came to S.L.A.A. about 5 years ago following a love affair that triggered instability, obsession, desperation and lack of good judgment in me. When I came to the program, I heard about the concept of sexual, social, and emotional anorexia / bulimia and I discovered that I wasn't the only person in the world that went for years feeling isolated and without any desire, and then afterwards acted out compulsively and lost herself in others. Finding peers was a great relief. For a long time, my heart was completely closed. I had abandoned myself, was sad, had forgotten to enjoy myself and couldn't give myself what I needed.

All of my experience in recovery has three major components: working the steps with my sponsor, the connection with my fellows, and service work. In this way, I recovered confidence in my ability to work, I contributed to helping the group and mainly where I could leave behind my self-centeredness and grow spiritually and open my heart. I have served as literature person, chair, I've designed pamphlets and posters; all these activities had to do with my personal tastes and I began to connect with enjoyment, surrender, productivity, creativity.

I'm able to say that serving as sponsor is my first experience of true selfless love since there is nothing in the journey of my sponsee that my ego tries to take over. It's a feeling of deep surrender and awe at the step work of another person who is blossoming from disease to recovery. Each meeting with my sponsee makes me see something about the Steps that I didn't notice before; as if my Higher Power were sending me a sign through her. It's not easy, however, to not give advice or control, and that's why service leads me to work with my own patterns and behaviors—like a boomerang it gives me back 100% of what I give. Nevertheless, these benefits aren't what motivate me to do it, neither is the fear of relapsing, nor is obedience to the program: I do service because life outside my self-obsession is much more interesting than the one inside my head.

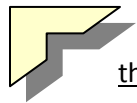
For ten years, S.L.A.A. Argentina functioned with only one group located in the neighborhood of Palermo, which is in the northern part of Buenos Aires. A female member of the group wanted to do her 12<sup>th</sup> Step by opening up a new group in the western part of the city in order to carry the message to other addicts, and I joined the crusade. That group opened 3 years ago. I did the treasury, which gave me the opportunity to deal with my deep disorder with money, but my main service was to attend the group. In three years, no more trusted servants stepped up, so we were 3 or 4 people who did all the

services by rotation. We didn't receive many newcomers either, so the primary purpose of every meeting (to carry the message) began to become blurred. Suddenly, I felt that the group was depending on me and I began to get resentful about what others did or didn't do and became demanding. I realized that I didn't have any more energy to "hold up" and I had to let go.

The day I decided to let go, there were 12 people in the group. It seemed like a message from Higher Power that was confirmation that he was in charge and that I only had to do my part, not every part. Today I'm working my ninth Step, I'm sponsoring, and I carry the message whenever I can so that one day other S.L.A.A. groups can open in Argentina. Each service position has shown me something about myself, helped me to leave behind social and emotional anorexia, and gave me tools that I can apply today in each of my daily activities outside the group.

Natalia

### **CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CORNER**



the Journal COMMITTEE

#### **FREE COPY OF THE JOURNAL**

Here's a new, easy way to share the message of S.L.A.A. recovery. The current Journal team has approved a FREE ISSUE of the Journal magazine. Please visit the FWS Website soon to read it online at <http://www.slaafws.org/journal/freeissue>

There are plans to include an option at this link for you to email the free issue with a personal message to anyone who may benefit from this recovery. There are also instructions for printing your own personal copies of the magazine, which may be freely distributed to local treatment centers and therapy offices, as well as to friends and family members, and, of course, to newcomers and sponsees. You may create extra copies of this free issue to circulate at meetings on your S.L.A.A. literature table.


What is the *Journal*? It's our meeting in print. Each issue offers 'lead shares' on a theme of recovery -- exactly the same kind of shares you might hear at any S.L.A.A. meeting.

This free issue, the Recovery Outreach Edition, has been compiled from past issues of the *Journal* specifically for the addict who still suffers - especially those who have never heard of S.L.A.A. and the healthcare professionals who might carry our message of recovery from sex and love addiction to their patients.

Please pass it on - you may read this FREE ISSUE online! Printed copies may be available to order in the future through the FWS office (for a small fee to cover printing and shipping costs.) Please contact the Conference Journal Committee for additional information at <http://www.slaafws.org/contact/cjc>

## the *Journal* Summer Contest

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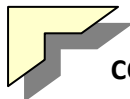

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### CONFERENCE STEPS AND TRADITIONS COMMITTEE

The CSTC consists of 2 subcommittees; Traditions Study and 12 & 12 Book Project. Both subcommittees remain busy with their respective tasks.

The Traditions Study Subcommittee has, for the past several months, been involved in writing sharing sheets for the 12 & 12. We have concentrated on those Steps and Traditions which had 10 or fewer submissions. For each of the past several months, the subcommittee members have submitted 2 combined sharing sheets.

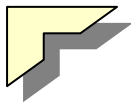
There is currently one open question from the membership which is awaiting further responses. Once these responses have been returned, we will combine all of the sharing and publish it in the FWS Newsletter.

The Traditions Study Subcommittee consists of 4 active members and would invite anyone who is interested in learning more about the Traditions and those who are seasoned in the Fellowship to join us. We could use a broader scope of experience from all the various parts of the Fellowship. We are happy to be able to announce that the biggest project which we have ever undertaken has been completed. We have published on the FWS Website a paper which contains all of the Traditions questions which we have considered through August, 2010. We encourage all members to look at these pages because they contain many topics of general concern. While we did not seek a group conscience in these summaries, they contain the discussions which were had on each question. It is our hope that more discussions will be had on these topics in your meetings.

The 12 & 12 Subcommittee continues to sort and categorize the sharing sheets which have been submitted by the Fellowship. The majority of the written sharing sheets which had been submitted by mail have been transcribed into electronic sharing sheets to allow the reviewers the ability to use them as they sort and categorize the shares. This work has been accomplished by a small group of volunteers from across the country. We wish to thank all who have been involved with making this work possible. We are currently awaiting the completion and approval of the Professional Writer Approval Process.

We invite the membership to continue to submit sharing sheets, especially with the higher numbered Steps and Traditions. Please submit your sharing sheets electronically via the FWS Website, this will allow immediate access by the workgroups which are reviewing the submissions. If you would like to serve with the CSTC on either or both subcommittees please contact us using the contact link on the FWS Website.

Garry K, Chair CSTC



#### **CONFERENCE PRISON OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

The CPOC continues to respond to requests received from inmates all over the United States. We have had a large increase in requests from west coast inmates, especially in California, and are in need of additional volunteers from all over the United States, especially those in western states. We always have a list of people who have requested a pen pal.

Since February, we have been able to provide a copy of the Basic Text and pamphlets to 17 inmates. We know from the letters of gratitude which we receive that these are most appreciated by these inmates. They now have some tools which they can use in attaining sobriety from their addictive bottom line behaviors. We have inmates who are progressing with their Step work. For example, two inmates recently completed their 7<sup>th</sup> Step and have been quite thorough as they worked the Steps.



This would be a good outreach program for all Intergroups. We can provide you with the forms and information, which may be easily customized to the local area, which we use. We can provide names and addresses of those who have finished the initial pen pal application and screening process and have requested literature. The CPOC provides for the literature to be sent directly to the inmate and would cost the Intergroup nothing. What would be necessary is a commitment from some local volunteers to get this started. We would be happy to add local coordinators or other interested members to the CPOC.

This is basic Tradition 5 work in carrying the message of S.L.A.A. to the inmates who desire recovery.

If you are interested in serving with us in this important work, or if you have any questions regarding getting the work started in your area, please contact us through the FWS website.

Garry K, chair CPOC – May, 2011



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### **FWS Newsletter Submission Format**

It is very exciting to see how many of you are interested in submitting articles and reports to the FWS Newsletter. It is even more exciting to know the number of readers continues to grow. In order to maintain the integrity of the FWS Newsletter, I would like to encourage you to read and use the following guidelines when submitting articles and reports to the FWS Newsletter.

- ❖ Please use the email address created specifically for submissions to the FWS Newsletter, <http://slaafws.org/fwsnews-submit>
- ❖ Please make submissions in a .doc or .docx file, with the exception of flyers created for specific events or requests. Doing so helps the editor to make changes (usually for increased readability and continuity of print, minor grammatical errors) to the document.
- ❖ Please remember to maintain anonymity. Use First Name and Last Initial.
- ❖ Please follow the motion passed to place periods between the initials in our abridged name in any written material that is made public. It should look as such: S.L.A.A.
- ❖ Please submit your articles and reports in a timely fashion. In each edition of the FWS Newsletter, the deadlines are published.
- ❖ Please remember that the FWS Newsletter is not a recovery-oriented publication. It is not to be confused with the *Journal*, which publishes articles of recovery. All submissions must have the mission of the FWS Newsletter at its center, which is to publish items related to S.L.A.A. business, committee, office, and BOT news, and to share this information as widely as possible in order to keep all members, near and far, up-to-date with the business happenings of the Fellowship.
- ❖ The deadlines are:
  - August 14, 2011
  - November 13, 2011
  - February 12, 2012
  - May 13, 2012

If there are any concerns, questions, or comments re: the FWS Newsletter, you may contact the editor, Deb W., <http://slaafws.org/contact/newseditor>

Respectfully submitted, Deb W.