



## Fellowship-Wide Services Newsletter

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*May 2012*

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

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## **New F.W.S. Office Staff Introductions**

### **Mailroom Associate**

My name is Hector Fuentes, I live in San Antonio. I began working with The Augustine Fellowship in February 2011 as a temporary employee. When I started with the organization, the volunteers such as Sam M., were very pleasant to work with. I enjoyed the atmosphere and I became eager to learn my new job.

When the Mailroom Associate position became available, I decided to apply. With my past work experience being logistics and the comfortable work environment at the office, I believed that I would make a good fit. I have been a staff member of The Augustine Fellowship as of October 31, 2011.

I enjoy completing orders that come through the mailroom. I ensure the orders are filled correctly and mailed in a timely manner. I have had opportunities to sit and talk with the Board of Trustees, read literature and learn about S.L.A.A.

I look forward to organizing and preparing for the ABM and seeing the outcome. I hope to continue my employment with S.L.A.A. for some time to come.

## **Showing Up, In Service**

### **Tom B.'s (our newest BOT member) story**

In October of 2011, I was appointed to the Board of Trustees. The appointment was the result of a 2-month application process once I had attained the eligibility requirement of three years sobriety off my bottom lines. In fact, my sobriety date matches my time in the program of S.L.A.A. It's hard to believe how much my life has changed in the three years leading up to Board service.

Before S.L.A.A., I ran from relationships and responsibilities. An exception was the occasional lover who ran from me, which made it safe to pursue to preoccupation (while avoiding really facing the truth of my patterns.) Unconsciously, I needed the distraction of preoccupation and obsession. I did not have tools to relate or handle social responsibilities, and my sex and love addiction saved me from the pain of this reality.

When I finally built up enough understanding that I was powerless and my life was unmanageable, only then did I attend my first 12-Step meeting. It was a Step Study meeting of Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous. I could barely see the way to my seat in the room from such fear. During that period, I became well acquainted with ceilings and floors, my bearable focal points.

My first meeting was a little shocking because, after arriving late, it took me a moment to recognize that the member sharing was a former college friend. As the next member started speaking, I realized it was a coworker from the club scene 20 years earlier. Next to talk was a friendly acquaintance from art galleries, then my one friend from the dog park, then my former nurse (suddenly it made sense why she'd been so memorably compassionate during my recurring shots to heal all those shameful STDs).

These were not the cursed people I was expecting to see at a 12-Step meeting for sex and love addiction. They were all articulate, intelligent, and conscientious individuals whom I admired at some level. They had realized that their patterns of sex and love were not working in their lives and they were taking steps

to get better. Instantly my love for this fellowship was born. I felt strongly this was the right place for me.

I followed direction and found a sponsor at my second meeting, and began working the Steps. My bottom lines have changed throughout the years, but I've stuck to them all in their various forms. That first day I set my first bottom line of no sex outside of a committed relationship, which remains a healthy boundary that has given me so much peace of mind and renewed presence.

S.L.A.A. service is the key to my sobriety. It is a core ingredient in my personal recipe of recovery. Within my first few months of meetings, I volunteered for a commitment as an Intergroup representative. At my first Intergroup meeting, there was quite a bit of conflict. I became triggered, replaying the events over and over in my head afterward. Luckily, recovery tools were already recommended and available, and the outreach calls and journaling helped soothe my nerves and restore momentary sanity.

In my scarcely surrendered sober state, I could look beyond the Intergroup conflict as I interpreted it. This made it possible for me to appreciate the S.L.A.A. members at that Intergroup meeting who exhibited incredible patience, maintaining their mental and emotional sobriety in response to conflict.

I wanted what they had. I didn't want to escape or get high through sex and love. I no longer wanted only to win in this situation. I simply wanted to stay emotionally and mentally sober during conflict.

I learned that "feelings aren't facts" and in recovery, we "sit with our feelings." I learned to show up and be of service. Whenever I was triggered at Intergroup, I could meditate on my Higher Power. When that didn't alleviate the mind spinning, I had a reliable list of recovery tools.

Intergroup service led to Conference Committee service, which revealed similar circumstances on a larger scale.

During this time, my private life saw remarkable recovery. Until program, my personal relationships were predictably threatened by conflict on a regular basis. This was nowhere more pronounced than in my work relationships. Because of S.L.A.A. service, I have learned healthy boundaries to speak my truth when appropriate and to safely receive the truth of others. In my present career path, articulate, intelligent and conscientious coworkers now support me. Truthfully, I've had zero conflict in my work relationships since working the 12 Steps of S.L.A.A. That is a miracle.

I finally reached a place within myself where I could trust others. The reason I can trust others is that today I trust myself. I have tools to stay emotionally and mentally sober during conflict. I trust myself that I won't sabotage relationships for lack of tools and then run from responsibilities as a result. I've made a conscious choice to disengage from several unhealthy relationships, which would not have been possible before doing the work in this program. Letting go of these emotionally blocked associations has opened up the door to healthy, sober relationships.

I vividly remember walking my dog one day and realizing, "Today, for the first time, I actually trust everyone close to me in my life." The next day I joined my first teleconference business meeting as a newly appointed member of the S.L.A.A. Board of Trustees. It wasn't until check-ins that I made the connection to feeling trust and being a Trustee.

This summer, I will be running for confirmation at the Annual Business Meeting. In fact, the very day of that vote and the last day of the ABM – July 27, 2012 - I will have 4 years of sobriety. Still, I am sending a 4-year-old to battle an addict who is over 40 years old. I need a gang of 2-year-olds and 8-year-olds and a few 15-year-olds and older to help me. The S.L.A.A. Fellowship is a Higher Power literally bringing us together to recover our capacity for relationship from the stranglehold of our addiction, our capacity for

responsibility out of the wreckage of our past.

We simply show up (and that's being of service.) We show up, in service, to others (as ourselves.)

-- Tom B., Los Angeles

**Board Finance and Operating Committee Chair's  
Report of May 2012 Visit to the F.W.S. Office  
Date of Trip: April 29<sup>th</sup> – May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

This was my second visit to the Fellowship-Wide Services Office since taking the position of Board Finance and Operating Committee Chair (BFOC) in July. This trip was intended to allow me to take care of certain matters being handled by Board Members through on-site visits (either by Rita H. as Office Supervisor, Tom F. as Board Chair/President or myself) and to perform the second three-month evaluation of F.W.S. Office staff members Chunnisee Jackson and Hector Fuentes.

I arrived Sunday evening and went into the office Monday morning, April 30<sup>th</sup>. I barely had time to get set up before meeting with the IT Consultant, David Crawford. The F.W.S. Office recently purchased two laptops from him for use in the office and at the ABM. He was there to setup one of the laptops securely onto the network.

While in San Antonio I spent quite a bit of time on the phone with the local counsel, the Massachusetts counsel and the F.W.S. Accountant dealing with various corporate and legal issues. I had hoped to meet in person with local counsel, but he had to cancel due to a funeral. One thing I truly enjoy while in the office is getting to take some of the calls to F.W.S. from members and potential members, and I handled several calls throughout the week.

On Monday, only the F.W.S. Bookkeeper, Pamela Gaba, works in the office. I was able to take a few minutes with her to discuss operations of the office. Although she is an independent contractor and serves as the bookkeeper, she is in the office two days a week (Mondays and Fridays) and assists with certain office functions beyond the scope of a bookkeeper.

Before Pamela left on Monday we opened the mail, going over the procedure (mail is usually opened by her and Chunnisee together) to familiarize myself with the procedure designed to protect the integrity of donations and other funds received through the office. Finally, despite my travel, regular Board Subcommittee Meetings go on and Monday evening I attended the Human Resource Subcommittee (a subcommittee of BFOC) conference call.

I was on the phone much of Tuesday morning. I also took a few minutes to secure the new laptop, including setting up a cable lock since laptops sometimes have a way of disappearing.

I got the opportunity on Tuesday to get better acquainted with the Office Coordinator, Chunnisee Jackson, (I had only met her in person once before – when we interviewed her) and spend some time with Hector Fuentes, the Mailroom Associate. I also did a physical check of the office premises involving various issues that had come up since the last Board member's visit in February.

David Santos, our representative from Watermark Publishing, came to the office on Tuesday and, with Chunnisee, proofed the new *Journal* subscription card, as well as discussed the printing of *the Journal*.

I reviewed some aspects of the shipping process on Tuesday, personally performing the quality control check on the day's shipment of literature orders and helping with the final preparation and mailing of shipments.

It took quite a bit of time Wednesday on the phone and on-line trying to set up a remote deposit scanner for use in the office that would allow items to be deposited immediately on receipt, with the idea that could provide greater ease and security for incoming checks.

On Wednesday morning I had my Copyright-Translations Subcommittee (CTS) Chair hat on. I worked with the F.W.S. Copyright Desk employee, Sara Cuellar, reviewing database possibilities and the emails to CTS for outstanding matters involving translating committees and Intergroups. I then attended the CTS phone meeting.

I also reviewed on Wednesday some of the shipping techniques with Hector, prepared some Conference Prison Outreach Committee shipments of free literature, and more time on the phone with lawyers, the Office Supervisor Rita H., the Board Chair Tom F.

Thursday morning was a shopping morning as I stocked up the office with supplies from Office Depot, HEB, the Post Office and Lowe's. I took the opportunity Thursday afternoon to review some office policies with Chunnisee and to deal with some packing issues for small orders with Hector.

Chunnisee reviewed with me the inventory tracking process. It is heartening to know that there has not been a single back order for any members ordering from our store in a long time, and that we have an accurate count of all store merchandise on hand.

Thursday evening I was able to attend the local S.L.A.A. meeting. I want to thank the Thursday night group for having me at their meeting and it was nice to have dinner with a couple of members afterwards.

Friday morning, employee evaluations were performed with the Office Supervisor attending by telephone. All went well with evaluations and the Fellowship treated the employees and Pamela to an excellent take-out lunch from a local barbeque restaurant on Friday.

The rest of Friday I set up and used the remote deposit scanner for the first time. Lots of software and account issues were all finally resolved and the first remote deposit was successfully made and will be used for deposits by me and future F.W.S. Treasurers.

I took a few hours Saturday morning before my flight to try and sift through two crates full of years of copyright materials. Unfortunately, there is much more there than I had time to closely review and the tracking, updating and monitoring of copyrights and translations remains among the most daunting of the service obligations of which I am part.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve B.

5/12/2012

## **Board Finance and Operating Committee (BFOC) Chair's Report**

**May 15 2012**

Board Members: Steve B. (FL), Chair/Treasurer and Rita H. (QC), Office Supervisor/Clerk

Non-Board Members: Curtis B. (MA), Bob G. (MA), and Susan G. (CA)

## **Treasurer's Report**

At the end of April, the BFOC approved and submitted to the Board of Trustees (BOT) the financial Reports through the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2011-12. This includes the six month period from October 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012. **Included in this Newsletter is the Balance Sheet as of March 31, as well as the Month-by-Month Profit and Loss reflecting the first six months of the fiscal year.**

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Fellowship Wide Services (F.W.S.) Accountant, the Balance Sheet is kept on an accrual basis, while we maintain the profit and loss and other financial records on a cash basis. There is little difference in the numbers between cash and accrual basis as the F.W.S. has basically a “balanced budget” with no debt spending and accounts receivables that are minimal.

As is apparent from the Financial Reports, the current financial footing of F.W.S. remains solid as operating funds continue to grow. The Prudent Reserve Fund (PRF) has increased due to market forces as well as the fact that there have been no withdrawals in almost two years. The terms of the Prudent Reserve Fund allow for a withdrawal of 5% per annum (1.25% quarterly) of the weighted balance, but the Board of Trustees (BOT) has found such withdrawal to be unnecessary and is looking to make repayments towards the PRF in the near future towards past withdrawals.

## **Board Finance and Operating Committee**

The Board Finance and Operating Committee (BFOC) focuses on matters of a financial nature or matters which have potential financial implications to Fellowship Wide Services, Inc. (F.W.S.). The BFOC meets twice monthly and monitors the F.W.S. financial reports on a monthly basis, as well as oversees the activities of the Office Supervisor and each of the BFOC subcommittees.

The BFOC is pleased to announce the addition of a non-board member, Susan G. from California, in March. Susan has served in various positions over the last five years for S.L.A.A. Online and is currently the Conference Sponsorship Committee Chair. She also serves on the Conference Finance Committee and Call Squad. BFOC is grateful that Susan is willing to dedicate her time to this Committee and I am personally grateful for the dedication of each of the committee members.

Much of the last quarter has been dedicated to setting up written policies and procedures as well as a list of annual BFOC Tasks and Goals to help the Committee meet the responsibilities of the business operations of the F.W.S. Office in a consistent, responsible and timely manner. Policies have been written in connection with F.W.S. Website email addresses, office volunteers, signing of copyright documents, and ABC/M volunteers.

## **BFOC Subcommittees**

The BFOC oversees six subcommittees, including the Human Resource Subcommittee (HRS), the F.W.S.-Literature Reformatting Subcommittee (FWS-LRS), the Web Team, the ABC/M Planning Committee, the Spanish Basic Text Task Force (SBT) and the Copyright-Translations Subcommittee(CTS). Some of the highlights of subcommittee activities are as follows.

The Web Team is busy with preparations to shift the entire F.W.S. Website to a new hosting company, and the F.W.S. Webmaster will continue the process of assigning registration ID #s for Lone Groups.

The FWS-LRS is completing the process of editing an electronic file of the Basic Text (the original is in printer's plates) and has begun looking into the process of e-publication.

The ABC/M 2012 Subcommittee made some final decisions regarding volunteer policies, maintenance of the hospitality suite, meal scheduling, and other details for the upcoming Business Meeting in San Diego.

The CTS has been involved in reviewing the free pamphlets in several languages, including Chinese, Spanish and Russian; also approving requests for, or final versions of, translations in Danish and Swedish. As usual, the subcommittee has been reviewing the various copyright issues that invariably arise and is in the process of creating a database to monitor the status of translation requests and contracts.

The SBT has begun by translating into Spanish the *Language of S.L.A.A. Recovery* posted on the F.W.S. website to establish a consistent translation of specific S.L.A.A. recovery terms. The SBT is still looking for bilingual volunteers to assist in the Basic Text translation Project. If you qualify to help and are interested, contact the Spanish Basic Text Task Force through the Conference Translation Committee at <http://www.slaafws.org/contact/ctc>.

## Conclusion

Many thanks for the service of members of the subcommittees, including Tom F., Rita H., Ayana P., Chris D., Sam M., Curtis B., Stephen S., Moses C., Fiona D., Roger R., Tom R., Marc S., Juan X., Graciela D., Gilberto H. and Beth S. Questions regarding the Financial Reports, or the Board Finance and Operating Committee can be directed to <http://www.slaafws.org/contact/SB>.

Submitted in service,  
Steve B.  
Board Finance and Operating Committee Chair

### S.L.A.A. F.W.S. Balance Sheet (Accrual Basis)

	<u>Mar 31, 12</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
10000 • BofA ABM/TEF-0426	11,171.83
10100 • BofA Checking	68,483.57
10400 • Vanguard Prudent Reserve Fund	124,402.84
10900 • Petty Cash-Rita	-28.59
10901 • Petty Cash-Pamela	<u>128.60</u>
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	204,158.25
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	
11200 • Accounts Receivable	<u>7,136.64</u>
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	7,136.64

<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
12000 · Undeposited Funds	1,173.85
12100 · Inventory Asset	51,471.89
12200 · Inventory Asset - San Diego, CA	3,603.23
13000 · Prepaid Expenses	<u>227.01</u>
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<u>56,475.98</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>267,770.87</u>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
15000 · Buildings and Equipment	41,098.90
17100 · Accum Depreciation	<u>-31,244.00</u>
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<u>9,854.90</u>
<b>TOTAL Assets</b>	<u><b>277,625.77</b></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Accounts Payable</b>	
20100 · Accounts Payable	<u>-306.80</u>
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	-306.80
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
25000 · Sales Tax Payable	<u>51.01</u>
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<u>51.01</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>-255.79</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	-255.79
<b>Equity</b>	
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	194,579.60
33000 · Unrealized Gain/Loss	26,809.58
<b>Net Income</b>	<u>56,492.38</u>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>277,881.56</u>
<b>TOTAL Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<u><b>277,625.77</b></u>

### S.L.A.A. F.W.S. Profit Loss Statement 04/12

<u>Oct 11</u>	<u>Nov 11</u>	<u>Dec 11</u>	<u>Jan 12</u>	<u>Feb 12</u>	<u>Mar 12</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
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**Ordinary Income/Expense**
**Income**
**40000 · ABC/M Income**

<b>40200 · ABC/M Registration</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,225.00	12,225.00
						0	

<b>Total 40000 · ABC/M Income</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,225.00	12,225.00
						0	

**42000 · Contribution Income**

<b>42100 · Groups</b>	4,982.07	3,435.97	2,194.76	3,776.26	3,077.22	4,682.17	22,148.45
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		16,822.1					
<b>42200 · Individuals</b>	1,488.16	0	1,668.00	1,213.94	615.95	670.65	22,478.80

<b>42300 · Intergroups</b>	6,850.55	1,881.00	3,573.66	2,432.36	2,658.82	472.86	17,869.25
	13,320.7	22,139.0					

<b>Total 42000 · Contribution Income</b>	8	7	7,436.42	7,422.56	6,351.99	5,825.68	62,496.50
	16,872.4	11,610.0	14,334.2	17,073.2	17,377.0	15,307.2	

<b>49000 · Sales Income</b>	9	8	2	9	9	2	92,574.39
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<b>49100 · Shipping</b>	2,332.91	2,067.45	2,237.22	1,803.86	2,317.62	2,524.52	13,283.58
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<b>49110 · Subsidies</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	2.00
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<b>49901 · Uncategorized Income</b>	-294.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-294.40
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<b>49902 · Dues, Fees, Licenses</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	411.00	0.00	411.00
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<b>Total Income</b>	32,231.7	35,816.6	24,007.8	26,301.7	26,457.7	35,882.4	180,698.0
	8	0	6	1	0	2	7

**Cost of Goods Sold**
**50000 · Cost of Goods Sold**

<b>50900 · Shipping Expense</b>	2,012.13	1,294.09	1,718.93	1,468.16	1,862.63	2,186.33	10,542.27
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<b>50950 · Shipping - For resent orders</b>	0.00	0.00	27.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	27.68
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<b>70000 · Inventory adjustment</b>	-20.23	-43.73	0.00	47.56	31.19	114.17	128.96
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<b>50000 · Cost of Goods Sold - Other</b>	2,575.62	1,599.43	2,099.92	2,440.42	2,548.86	2,224.08	13,488.33
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<b>Total 50000 · Cost of Goods Sold</b>	4,567.52	2,849.79	3,846.53	3,956.14	4,442.68	4,524.58	24,187.24
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<b>Total COGS</b>	4,567.52	2,849.79	3,846.53	3,956.14	4,442.68	4,524.58	24,187.24
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<b>Net Income</b>	27,664.2	32,966.8	20,161.3	22,345.5	22,015.0	31,357.8	156,510.8
	6	1	3	7	2	4	3

**Expense**
**60000 · BOT**

<b>60100 · BOT Accommodation</b>	296.61	1,122.24	1,492.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,911.14
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<b>60200 · BOT Other</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	200.00	225.00
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<b>60400 · BOT Travel</b>	1,253.55	282.32	960.27	225.12	255.83	987.05	3,964.14
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<b>Total 60000 · BOT</b>	1,550.16	1,404.56	2,452.56	225.12	280.83	1,187.05	7,100.28
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**61000 · BOT ABC/M**

<b>61300 · BOT ABC/M Travel</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,652.10	500.20	2,152.30
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<b>Total 61000 · BOT ABC/M</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,652.10	500.20	2,152.30
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**62000 · ABC/M Conference Expenses**

<b>62210 · ABC/M FWS Paid</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,042.40	1,042.40
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**62400 · Conference Committee**

<b>62411 · The Journal (CJC)</b>	102.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	102.73
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<b>62414 · Prison Outreach (CPOC)</b>	13.94	13.33	0.00	0.00	35.95	0.00	63.22
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<b>Total 62400 · Conference Committee</b>	116.67	13.33	0.00	0.00	35.95	0.00	165.95
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<b>Total 62000 · ABC/M Conference Expenses</b>	116.67	13.33	0.00	0.00	35.95	1,042.40	1,208.35
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**62100\* · Contract Services**

<b>62110* · Accounting Fees</b>	75.00	0.00	0.00	7,885.00	0.00	0.00	7,960.00
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63300 · Webmaster Services	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	7,200.00
63400 · Contract Services - Labor	3,927.00	4,475.35	5,081.85	989.25	8,818.62	7,012.07	30,304.14
63500 · Contract Services - Other	2,182.50	2,633.20	1,702.50	2,175.42	2,895.45	1,904.00	13,493.07
				12,249.67	12,914.07	10,116.07	
<b>Total 62100* · Contract Services</b>	<b>7,384.50</b>	<b>8,308.55</b>	<b>7,984.35</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>58,957.21</b>
<b>62800 · Facilities and Equipment</b>							
62870 · Property Insurance	58.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	58.00
64200 · Rent	2,805.72	2,805.72	2,805.72	2,825.72	2,805.72	2,805.72	16,854.32
64300 · Telephone	247.57	0.00	222.68	259.19	254.66	280.14	1,264.24
64400 · FWS Website	35.00	459.40	35.00	35.00	35.00	228.60	828.00
<b>Total 62800 · Facilities and Equipment</b>	<b>3,146.29</b>	<b>3,265.12</b>	<b>3,063.40</b>	<b>3,119.91</b>	<b>3,095.38</b>	<b>3,314.46</b>	<b>19,004.56</b>
<b>65000 · General Office Expense</b>							
65100 · Bank Charges/Fees	2.50	3.39	0.00	0.00	37.75	0.00	43.64
65200 · Vendor Fees	714.86	694.45	715.44	1,113.92	468.36	690.93	4,397.96
65300 · Dues, Fees and Licenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	125.00	0.00	125.00
65400 · Federal and State Tax	968.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	968.85
65500 · Insurance - Liability	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	700.00	1,026.00	1,726.00
65550 · Meals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	94.00	0.00	94.00
<b>Total 65000 · General Office Expense</b>	<b>1,686.21</b>	<b>697.84</b>	<b>715.44</b>	<b>1,113.92</b>	<b>1,425.11</b>	<b>1,716.93</b>	<b>7,355.45</b>
<b>65000* · Operations</b>							
65670 · Office Supplies	137.72	482.90	88.02	271.49	369.52	138.02	1,487.67
65030 · Printing and Copying	0.00	922.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,128.00	2,050.73
66300 · Miscellaneous Expenses	0.00	0.00	75.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	75.00
66500 · Packaging and Supplies	303.17	0.00	0.00	73.27	0.00	0.00	376.44
66600 · Postage, Mail Services	101.35	40.70	96.76	379.72	120.39	435.34	1,174.26
66800 · Journal Printing & Mailing	628.74	0.00	28.27	880.24	16.15	906.99	2,460.39
66900 · Translation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	338.69	338.69
<b>Total 65000* · Operations</b>	<b>1,170.98</b>	<b>1,446.33</b>	<b>288.05</b>	<b>1,604.72</b>	<b>506.06</b>	<b>2,947.04</b>	<b>7,963.18</b>
<b>66901 · Reconciliation Discrepancies</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.07</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.07</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>15,054.81</b>	<b>15,135.80</b>	<b>14,503.80</b>	<b>18,313.34</b>	<b>19,909.50</b>	<b>20,824.15</b>	<b>103,741.40</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>12,609.45</b>	<b>17,831.01</b>	<b>5,657.53</b>	<b>4,032.23</b>	<b>2,105.52</b>	<b>10,533.69</b>	<b>52,769.43</b>
<b>Total Net Income</b>	<b>12,609.45</b>	<b>17,831.01</b>	<b>5,657.53</b>	<b>4,032.23</b>	<b>2,105.52</b>	<b>10,533.69</b>	<b>52,769.43</b>

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

**May 13, 2012**

The F.W.S. Office continues to operate smoothly and efficiently observing a positive net income. Please see the 6-month financial reports (*Balance Sheet* and *Profit and Loss*) in this newsletter. Below is listed the highlights since the last report.

### Office Operations

- *the Journal* May/June 2012 #136 issue received from editor April 3<sup>rd</sup>; Office coordinator in training to review Journal editions, send to the printer and request proofs.
  - Met with Office coordinator and bookkeeper Friday April 6<sup>th</sup> to go over who does what; bookkeeper will provide statistics of new subscribers, renewing subscribers, sent subscriptions, and more.
  - Journal Subscription List (updated last day of even months) by bookkeeper and then Office coordinator verifies list.
  - Journal Renewal notices sent by bookkeeper,
- CPOC outreach mailing and pen pals handled by Office coordinator; 3 month report Jan-Mar12 shows an average of 60 min/month.
- A major goal is to increase support to Conference committees and CFC for expenses/budget after the ABM12.

### Office Visits by BOT-tentative dates

- June 10-23, 2012 F.W.S. Office supervisor/clerk-ABM preparation.
- June 18-22, 2012 BOT chair/president-ABM preparation.
- August 19-29, 2012 F.W.S. Office supervisor/clerk-ABM reports.
- October 21-27, 2012 BFOC chair/treasurer-Annual Staff evaluation and fiscal yearend financial reports.

### Staff Performance Appraisal-six months

- HRS updating the appraisal form to include Goals as suggested by BFOC.

### Staff (all staff processed through Hawkins Personnel Agency)

- F.W.S. Office Hours Tues-Fri 9:30am-4:30pm CT.
- F.W.S. Office Coordinator Chunnisee Jackson.
- Mailroom Associate, Hector Fuentes.
- Temps hired as of January 2012 for about 10 hours/week to do the following:
  - Type *S.L.A.A. Basic Text Personal Stories* section and proofreaders reviewing Basic Text.
  - Attend CTS calls and do minutes.
  - Data entry for licensing agreements, RFIs, and royalties paid.
  - Preparation and mailings for:
    - Spanish Outreach Project
    - Spanish Infringement Letters sent.
    - SBT Task Force packages sent.
    - Literature packages for members needing/requesting/working on a Translation Committee.
  - Type BOT minutes effective March 24<sup>th</sup>.

### Independent Contractors

- F.W.S. Webmaster
- F.W.S. Bookkeeper
- IT Consultant w/QuickBooks Expertise

***Respectfully submitted,***

***Rita H.***

***F.W.S. Office supervisor***

***Board member***

## **2012 ABC/M Raffle Draw**

**The 2012 ABC/M Raffle Draw** for the free ABC/M registration (\$250 USD) and the 3-day (Tues-Thurs) hotel accommodations (double occupancy-\$225 USD) took place at the F.W.S. Office Tuesday April 17, 2012.

The Office Coordinator, Mailroom Associate, and F.W.S. Webmaster participated in the drawing.

Early Delegate Sign Up forms postmarked by March 28, 2012 received one raffle ticket. Additional raffle tickets were given as shown in the table provided.

The three intergroups drawn are highlighted below. Jay G., from the Northeast Ohio Intergroup, accepted the raffle draw.

<b>2012 ABC/M Raffle Draw Participants</b>							
		<b>Delegate Group Affiliation</b>	<b>1-Form Early</b>	<b>1-Grps &lt;4</b>	<b>1-Rep &lt;2006</b>	<b>Reg/ Pmt</b>	<b>TOTAL TICKETS</b>
3		Ontario Intergroup	1				1
4		San Diego Intergroup	1			1	2
5		Tampa Bay Intergroup	1				1
6	1	Northeast Ohio Intergroup	1			1	2
7		Los Angeles Intergroup	1			1	2
8		Sacramento Intergroup	1			1	2
9		S.L.A.A. Online	1	1		1	3
10	3	Austin/Central Texas	1			1	2
11	2	Greater Delaware Valley Intergroup/SLAA Telemeetings	1			1	2
12		San Francisco/East Bay Intergroup	1			1	2
13		San Francisco/East Bay Intergroup	1			1	2
14		Santa Cruz Intergroup	1				1
15		Los Angeles Intergroup	1			1	2
16		Greater Cincinnati Intergroup	1			1	2
17		New England Intergroup	1				1
18		Intergroup of the Monterey Bay	1			1	2

19		Tampa Bay Intergroup	1			1
20		San Francisco/East Bay Intergroup	1		1	2
21		Los Angeles Intergroup	1		1	2
22						
23		<b>Raffle Draw Results in Yellow</b>	19	1	13	34
24						

If you or your Intergroup/Group are interested in contributing to the **ABC/M Scholarship Fund** to help new delegates attend or members struggling to raise the full amount to attend please read the policy in this newsletter.

## **ABC/M Scholarship Policy**

Each year members are encouraged to contribute monies to a Scholarship Fund to help subsidize Intergroup and Lone Groups sending delegates to the ABC/M for the first time. In an effort to encourage contributions as well as provide information to those who may want to request help funding a delegate to attend the ABC/M July 2012 the following is provided:

- Who:** Intergroups and Lone Groups sending delegates to the ABC/M for the first time may apply.
- Why:** To encourage areas that have not been previously represented to send delegates to attend the ABC/M.
- When:** Deadline for requests is **Sunday June 10, 2012** preferably by email or fax 1-210-828-7922 as this is the quickest and surest way to meet the deadline.
- What:** Amount contributed (it could be zero) will be evenly distributed among applicants.
- Where:** Announced at the ABC/M if any are given.

If you would like to contribute to the scholarship fund to help delegates attending the ABC/M please call the Office supervisor at 1-210-828-7900 or go online <http://tinyurl.com/abmscholarshipfund> and make a contribution directly. Thank you for your support and generous spirit.

## Summary of BPRC Projects for Conference Year 2011-12\*

\*Projects listed below were specific to this Conference Year  
unlike ongoing projects such as the FWS newsletter.

Report Date: May 14, 2012

As our conference year is winding down it seemed appropriate to provide a summary of projects/goals for this past Conference Year.

Completed Projects	
<b>Proposal for the Creation of Professional Literature on a Fee Basis</b>	<p>Project Priority Rank: 1 BPRC Completion Date: May 1, 2012 Project Description: This is a process that allows for the hiring of professional writers and/or editors on a fee basis, to ensure prompt, efficient handling of writing and editorial responsibilities for S.L.A.A. literature projects. BPRC revised the original draft (formally entitled <i>The Professional Literature Creation Process</i>) created by the <b>Writing Process Work Group</b> within the <b>Professional Literature Creation Task Force</b> of the Board of Trustees in January of 2010.</p>
<b>Project: Media Inquiry Webform</b>	<p>Project Priority Rank: 4 BPRC Completion Date: January 16, 2012 Project Description: BPRC created a webform on the slaafws.org website that allows members of the media to input all details of their media inquiry and requests that the read and agree to the 12 Recommended Guidelines for Dealing with the Media.</p>
Active Projects	
<b>Measuring Progress Pamphlet</b>	<p>Current Project Priority Rank: 1 Project Percentage Progress, This Year Total: 90% Estimated BPRC Completion Date: Late May 2012 Project Description: BPRC is reviewing/polishing the pamphlet approved at the 2011 ABM.</p>
<b>S.L.A.A. Literature Post ABM Approval Policy</b>	<p>Current Project Priority Rank: 2 Project Percentage Progress, This Year Total: 50% Estimated BPRC Completion Date: July 2012 Project Description: BPRC is creating a formal, step-by-step process that will apply to newly Conference Approved literature.</p>
<b>F.W.S. Newsletter Subscription Survey and Campaign</b>	<p>Current Project Priority Rank: 3 Project Percentage Progress, This Year Total: 75% Estimated Completion Date: July 2012 Project Description: BPRC is creating a survey to identify how the F.W.S. Newsletter can grow its subscription base.</p>

Note: The “Creation of Teen Flyer” project initially began as a BPRC project. In October of 2011 BPRC determined it was ultimately best handled as a separate non-BOT project facilitated by the project leader.

Submitted by Ayana P., BPRC Chair

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

July 2011 – April 2012

### **Announcements for August 13, 2011 BOT Regular Meeting**

**July 28, 2011** Consensus that the F.W.S. Office Supervisor-Rita H. send the following email reply in response to a member inquiry:

“... In keeping with our Tradition of autonomy, except in matters affecting other groups or S.L.A.A. as a whole, most decisions are made by the group conscience of the members involved. This website is the opinions and thoughts of one person. F.W.S. does not list a link to this on our website directory, nor is this meeting listed on the AASG site, <http://www.aasg.info/taxonomy/term/2> for the Atlanta Area Service Group. F.W.S. can't prevent someone from expressing their opinions on their own website. Please read the section in Chapter 7 of the S.L.A.A. Basic Text, Trusted Servants and Group Conscience, on page 133 for more information.”

**August 3, 2011** Consensus that the F.W.S. Office Supervisor-Rita H. send the following email reply in response to a member inquiry:

“... In keeping with the S.L.A.A. Tradition 4 of autonomy, except in matters affecting other groups or S.L.A.A. as a whole, most decisions are made by the group conscience of the members involved. Please read the section in Chapter 7 of the S.L.A.A. Basic Text, Trusted Servants and Group Conscience, on page 133 for more information. Neither the F.W.S. Office or the Conference as a whole have formulated any specific opinions on the listing of alternate meeting formats and would suggest it is therefore a matter of local group conscience.”

Consensus to send a token of appreciation in the amount of \$55 to Fiona D. for her volunteer work at the 2011 ABC/M.

Consensus that the F.W.S. Office Supervisor-Rita H. sends the following email reply in response to a member inquiry:

“... After discussion by the board the flyer submitted was not distributed at the ABM11. This discussion ought not to be construed as a statement for or against the H.O.W. materials. It has been discovered generally that there are copyright issues with material being distributed at various H.O.W. meetings around the world. We could not be assured, prior to the ABM, that any and all such copyright issues had been fully resolved and documented. We find it important to stay within the principles of the program. The F.W.S. Board of Trustees as well as the Conference is working to resolve the many copyright issues in an expedient manner.”

### **Announcements for October 8, 2011 BOT Regular Meeting**

**August 18, 2011** Consensus to publish the BOT Statement released at the 2011 ABM in the F.W.S. Newsletter.

Consensus that the F.W.S. Office Supervisor-Rita H. delivers the following letter to the independent contractor, Pamela Gaba, as the F.W.S. Bookkeeper:

“On behalf of the Board of Trustees and as F.W.S. Office supervisor I have been instructed to provide an adjustment to the payment of services rendered by you as an independent contractor for bookkeeping services to The Augustine Fellowship. The adjustment is an increase of \$5/hour raising the current \$25/hour to \$30/hour effective September 1,

2011. Hoping this meets with your approval and as a gesture of appreciation for your services performed since January 7, 2011.

**September 9, 2011** Consensus that the F.W.S. Office Supervisor-Rita H. send the following email reply in response to a member inquiry:

"Thank you for your question. The F.W.S. Office and Board of Trustees have no authority in such matters. This is a question that is best answered by the group conscience of the local Group or Intergroup. This is in keeping with the S.L.A.A. Tradition 2, "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as this power may be expressed through our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern." In addition each Group/Intergroup is autonomous making decisions by group conscience. This is the spirit of Tradition 4. "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or S.L.A.A. as a whole." Your question also involves issues of anonymity and confidentiality and presents potential legal issues. The F.W.S. Office and Board of Trustees cannot issue legal advice, nor can we apprise individuals of their legal rights in any specific country, state or territory. Please be aware, however, that 12 step anonymity is generally not the same as legal privilege/confidentiality. We therefore suggest you consult a local attorney about the law in your jurisdiction on any legal issue presented. Please visit the F.W.S. S.L.A.A. website at [www.slaafws.org](http://www.slaafws.org) for more information about the program of recovery of S.L.A.A. and other information about where to find a meeting/Group/Intergroup in your area."

Announcements for December 10, 2011 BOT Regular Meeting

**October 13, 2011** Consensus for the Treasurer-Steve B. to sign a letter of engagement for the CPA to review the 2010-11 financial statements with a cover letter stipulating the accountant to notify the BOT when getting close to a \$5,000.00 charge for services.

**October 14, 2011** Leon/TomF. 5/0/0

Motion: To appoint Tom B. to the BOT for the 2010-2013 open position.

**October 24, 2011** TomF/Rita 6/0/0

Motion: To move Tom B. to the BPRC.

**October 31, 2011** Announcement that the Human Resources Subcommittee (HRS) unanimously approved the new office coordinator-Chunnisee Jackson on October 24. She accepted the position October 25.

**November 17, 2011** Consensus for the BGNC to submit the updated BOT Recruitment Notice to the *F.W.S. Newsletter*.

**November 26, 2011** Steve/TomF 6/0/0

Motion: For the BFOC "to form a Task Force for the review of the Draft Spanish S.L.A.A. Basic Text with the goal of creating a final revision for publishing. The Task Force is a joint project of the Conference/BOT/Fellowship and includes the CTC chair, BFOC member/Office supervisor, and a minimum of 6 bilingual Spanish speaking members worldwide. This Spanish Basic Text Task Force (SBT Task Force) will report to BFOC and the CTC. It is suggested that sobriety requirements are waived for this task force. The goal is to start Jan 2012 with an end date of Dec 2012."



Announcements for February 25, 2012 BOT Regular Meeting

**December 22, 2011** Steve/Rita 6/0/0

Motion: **To approve Bob G. as a non-board member of BFOC for a 3-month trial period.**

**December 23, 2011** TomF/TomB 6/0/0

Motion: **To approve Chris D. as the Chair of the Human Resources Subcommittee (HRS) until the ABM 2012 and that the Board waive the tradition that a Board subcommittee be chaired by a Board member.**

**January 8, 2012** Consensus **to include the 12 Characteristics of Sex and Love Addiction in the Pocket Toolkit.**

**January 10, 2012** TomF/Leon 6/0/0

Motion: **To approve the updated S.L.A.A. By-Laws for distribution as passed at the 2011 ABC/M.**

Consensus **to reschedule the regular BOT meeting from February 11 to February 25.**

**February 6, 2012** Leon C. resigned from the Board of Trustees for health reasons.

**February 12, 2012** TomF/TomB 5/0/0

2 Motions: **To approve Balance Sheet Dec11 Accruals and publish in the next F.W.S. Newsletter.**

**To approve Profit Loss (PL) Oct-Dec11 Charts and publish in the next F.W.S. Newsletter.**

Consensus **for an emergency meeting of the Board of Trustees on February 13 to discuss the 2010 Tax Return and the 2010 Annual Report to the Massachusetts Attorney General.**

**February 20, 2012** Deb W. resigned from the role of BOT Record Keeper but will continue to serve until a replacement is found.

Announcements for March 10, 2012 BOT Special Meeting

**March 1, 2012** Steve/Rita 6/0/0

Motion: **To approve Susan G. as a non-board member of BFOC for a 3-month trial period.**

**March 19, 2012** Discussion from the CPIC Liaison as to whether the CPIC's "The Do's List" requires Conference Approval in order to be used as it is designed (i.e. distributed to Intergroups or Lone Groups.) Informal consensus is that the document does not require Conference Approval, although "an IFD may spark new awareness what a group may do to carry the message."

**March 20, 2012** Consensus **to approve letter to Leon C.**

"Dear Leon, Let me begin with the sincere hope that this letter finds you well and recovering your health since your hospitalization early February. You have often been in my thoughts and prayers. The Board of Trustees discussed your service to the Board and recognizes the time and effort that you put into making this Fellowship better than you found it. You were placed in many an uncomfortable situation and endured the pains of making things right. For that we are grateful! Please accept the enclosed small token of our appreciation as a gift of gratitude to you and your wife. I know that [your wife] had to endure some of the pains of Board service along with you. We also thank her. In closing, let me express the gratitude and well wishes of all the members of the Board of Trustees. You can be comfortable knowing that your service did make a difference."

### Announcements for April 14, 2012 BOT Regular Meeting

**March 26, 2012** Rick/Steve 6/0/0

Motion: **To approve Garry K. as a non-board member of BGNC for a 3-month trial period.**

**March 28, 2012** Ayana P. will resign from the BOT effective July 19, 2011.

**March 31, 2012** Rita/TomB 6/0/0

Motion: **To approve Tom R. as a non-BOT member of the CTS (Copyright-Translations Subcommittee) as recommended/approved by BFOC/CTS.**

**March 31, 2012** Rick/TomB 6/0/0

Motion: **To approve Jay G. as a non-board member of BGNC for a 3-month trial period.**

**April 1, 2012** Consensus **to approve email to Karma K. in response to her request for a meeting with the BOT on July 14<sup>th</sup> during the 2011 ABM.**

**April 9, 2012** Discussion **to forward any member requests for BOT Committee appointment to the BGNC Chair.**

### Announcements for May 12, 2012 BOT Special Meeting

**April 22, 2012** Consensus **to approve email response to the CPIC:**

"Forgive the delayed reply to your question regarding the CPIC's The Do's List and whether it requires Conference Approval in order to be used and distributed. The Board discussed this question at length via email and during our regular April meeting. The Board consensus was that The Do's List did not require Conference Approval in order to be made available to the fellowship at-large. The Do's List is somewhat comparable to the CSTC's Summary of Tradition Questions, which is posted on the F.W.S. website and included in the F.W.S. Newsletter. That document is not Conference Approved and is made available to the fellowship. One recommendation that emerged from the Board's discussion was to include a disclaimer that it is not Conference Approved material for the purpose of clarity. In addition noting the date of approval by the CPIC is also recommended. It was acknowledged that the committee had already submitted The Do's List to the BMIS as an IFD. If accepted onto the BMIS by the BRS it may increase the awareness of Intergroups/Groups

.

### **Board of Trustees (BOT) Meeting Minutes Summary**

**July 2011 – April 2012**

#### July 9, 2011

- At the close of the 2010-2011 term, the members of the Board of Trustees are: Leon C. (Chair), Rita H., Tom F., Richard C., Ayana P., and Steve B.
- The Chair of the Board Finance and Operating Committee (BFOC) is Tom F. The Chair of the Board Governance and Nominating Committee (BGNC) is Richard C. The Interim Chair of the Board Public Relations Committee (BPRC) is Ayana P.
- The first in-person BOT meeting before the 2011 ABC/M focused on BOT Committee Chair reports and Conference Committee BOT Liaison reports.
- The Office Supervisor reported that volunteers from Dallas, Austin and Houston have been assisting at the F.W.S. Office for the first time in over 5 years. The BFOC's Human Resources Subcommittee prepared a volunteer form

to fill out and volunteer guidelines. Kim B. of Boston is answering phones and outsourcing the calls. John D. from Houston made 700 newcomer packets.

#### July 10, 2011

- Discussion about Strategic Planning for the 2011-2012 Service Year, for a 3-Year Planning Horizon, and Planning Objectives.
- Discussion about BOT meetings, including the agenda format and report frequency.
- Discussion about the F.W.S. Office, including hiring new staff and options for the end of the current lease in 4 years.

#### July 11, 2011

- Discussion about Financials to present at the ABM, including the Financial Report (YTD).
- Discussion about the Prudent Reserve report for the ABM.
- Discussion about the budget for the 2011-2012 service term.
- Discussion about the role of the BOT secretary.
- Discussion about next step for a proposed podcast trial from the Conference Healthy Relationships Committee for their speaker share series.
- Discussion about presenting a statement to the ABM regarding the police complaint report filed about the previous General Manager.

#### July 13, 2011

- Discussion about the BOT response to Motions on the BMIS. There was a group conscience in favor of Motion 11n04 CBC change to the By-Laws.
- Discussion about the voting process at the General Assembly.
- Discussion about the BOT Statement to the Fellowship regarding the termination of the General Manager in 2010.

#### July 14, 2011

- An honorarium was presented to the BOT record keeper for her service.
- Discussion about having a non-BOT member serve as BOT secretary.
- Discussion continued from July 13 about the BOT Statement to the Fellowship regarding the termination of the General Manager. There was consensus to state that the BOT terminated the employment of the General Manager for cause. There was consensus to state "The BOT is in the process of filing a criminal complaint. Once the criminal complaint has been filed, the BOT will notify the fellowship." There was consensus to provide hotlinks to the FWS Newsletter and office supervisor reports.

#### July 15, 2011

- Tom F. was elected the BOT chair for 2011-12.

- At the start of the 2011-2012 term, the members of the Board of Trustees are: Tom F. (Chair), Rita H., Leon C., Ayana P., and Steve B.
- The Chair of the Board Finance and Operating Committee (BFOC) is Steve B. The Chair of the Board Governance and Nominating Committee (BGNC) is Leon C. The Chair of the Board Public Relations Committee (BPRC) is Ayana P.
- BOT Liaison to Conference Committees were assigned.  
CAC-Steve, CBC-Leon, CCAC-Leon, CCC-Tom, CDC-Ayana, CFC-Steve, CHRC-Ayana, CIFC-Tom, CIC-Rita, CJC-Steve, CLC-Rita, CPOC-Leon, CPIC-Ayana, CSC-Tom, CSPC-Tom, CSTC-Ayana, CTC-Steve
- Discussion about the signatures of the Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest Forms.
- Discussion about the annual review of the members of the BOT committees by the BOT committee chairs using the Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest Forms.
- Discussion about non-BOT members serving as Officers of the Corporation.
- Discussion about Liaising to Conference Committees.

#### August 13, 2011

- An announcement was made that the F.W.S. Office supervisor had contacted the temp agency, received resumes, and would begin the interview process on August 15<sup>th</sup> for an Office Coordinator. This is in accord with the decision at the July board meetings to hire a staff person as soon as possible for a one-year period.
- **Consensus** to approve the revised *Licensing Agreement February 2011* drafted by the Copyright-Translations Subcommittee; this document is required from all Intergroups/Groups/Translating Committees that have completed translations of copyrighted Conference-approved literature (with the exception of the 7 *Core Documents of S.L.A.A.*)
- **Consensus** to approve the updated *Copyright Translation Packet April 2011*; this document was first approved by the board April 2010 and assists Intergroups/Groups/Translating Committees starting the process of translation while protecting the legal copyright of the fellowship.
- **Consensus** that the BPRC develop a formal BOT policy and process for making recommendations, approving and publishing literature after ABM Conference-approval.
- **Consensus** that the BPRC request from the CLC Writing Group for *Triggers as A Resource* revisions with tracked edits for the pamphlet.
- **Consensus** for the BGNC to modify the forms; *Conflict of Interests (COI)* f and the *Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement (CND)* including a statement that non-BOT members serving at the BOT level (including BOT committees, subcommittees, task force groups, and ad hoc committees) sign the forms annually, and to send the forms back to the BOT for approval.
- **Consensus** that the BFOC Chair submit the following items to the *F.W.S. Newsletter*:
  - Fiscal Year to Date-June 2011 Profit and Loss plus the Balance Sheet Financial Reports.
  - The *S.L.A.A. Copyright and Logos Update* article.
- **Consensus** to approve an increase in the F.W.S. Bookkeeper, independent contractor, compensation by \$5/hr to \$30/hr effective September 1, 2011.

#### August 23, 2011

- **Consensus** that the BOT/BFOC chairs contact the Weston Hotel to discuss options regarding the Contract signed October 6, 2010.
- **Consensus** to negotiate an ABM at a Westin property, preferable in San Diego, and to leave the IRC to whoever submits a bid to host the 2013 ABM.

#### September 1, 2011

- **Motion 1:** To elect Tom F. to serve as President of the non-profit organization, The Augustine Fellowship, Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, Fellowship Wide Services, Inc. for the 2011-2012 Conference year. **Vote: 5-0-0 Motion passes.**
- **Motion 2:** To elect Steve B. to serve as Treasurer of the non-profit organization, The Augustine Fellowship, Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, Fellowship Wide Services, Inc. for the 2011-2012 Conference year. **Vote: 5-0-0 Motion passes.**
- **Motion 3:** To elect Rita H. to serve as Clerk of the non-profit organization, The Augustine Fellowship, Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, Fellowship Wide Services, Inc. for the 2011-2012 Conference year. **Vote: 5-0-0 Motion passes.**

#### October 8, 2011

- **Consensus** to return to the Crowne Plaza Hotel and ask the San Diego Intergroup to host the 2012 ABM.
- **Consensus** to ask the Copyright-Translations Subcommittee (CTS) to draft a cease and desist letter to protect the S.L.A.A. Basic Text copyright on behalf of the fellowship, and to ask the F.W.S. Literature Reformatting Subcommittee (FWS-LRS) to prioritize reformatting the Basic Text into a single electronic format.
- **Consensus** to continue the F.W.S. Intergroup Call Squad (FICS) and the current Call Squad Oversight Team (CSOT) Chair to find a replacement chair. Tom B. and Moses C. will be invited to serve on CSOT.

#### October 20, 2011

- An announcement was made that the Directors and Officers Liability Form was submitted to the insurance agency.
- An announcement was made that the 113-page Hamilton Criminal Complaint was submitted to the San Antonio Police Department.
- An announcement was made that the Human Resources Subcommittee interviewed three candidates for Office Coordinator and one Mailroom Associate, and would meet in two days to finalize.
- **Consensus** to approve the financial reports: August 31, 2011 Balance Sheet, the October 1, 2010 – August 31, 2011 Profit and Loss, and the ABM11 Profit and Loss.
- **Consensus** to delay distribution of this financial report until fiscal year end (FYE) reports submitted, approved by the BOT and submitted to the *F.W.S. Newsletter*.

- **Consensus** that BFOC will distribute quarterly reports to the BOT and once approved by the BOT distribute to the fellowship via the *F.W.S. Newsletter*.
- **Motion** to approve the draft budget 2011-2011 as presented. **Vote 6-0-0 Motion passes.**
- **Consensus** for the Licensing Agreement Section 7 policy to remain the same regarding hard copies required of translated literature once licensing agreement signed; and for the BFOC to manage the number.

#### December 10, 2011

- **Consensus** to send *Measuring Progress* to BPRC and then back to BOT for approval.
- **Consensus** to agree with the formation of the Conference Concepts Adaptation Committee (CCAC), as approved by the Conference with a non-binding vote.
- **Consensus** to have a special BOT meeting to discuss strategic planning.
- **Motion** for the BOT chair and president of the corporation to sign and execute the Crowne Plaza Hotel contract for the 2012 Annual Business Meeting (ABM). **Vote 6-0-0 Motion passes.**
- **Motion** to approve the translation of the 4 free pamphlets without permission, as is done with the 7 *Core Documents*, provided they meet the following disclaimers:
  - Provide a contact for corrections and issues of accuracy,
  - To be printed in its entirety, and
  - Send a hard copy to the F.W.S. Office.**Vote: 6-0-0 Motion passes.**

#### February 13, 2012

- **Motion** to approve 2010 IRS Tax Returns – Form 990. **Vote 5-0-0 Motion passes.**
- **Motion** to approve 2010 MA Attorney General Form PC with 2011 *S.L.A.A. By-Laws*. **Vote 5-0-0 Motion passes.**

#### February 25, 2012

- **Consensus** to have a special BOT meeting before the 2012 ABM to be more prepared to discuss Strategic Planning.
- **Consensus** that the BOT is in favor of CFC ideas in fundraising but reluctant toward singling out individual members for solicitation, and encourages the CFC to make a proposal for fundraising ideas.
- **Consensus** for Rita and Tom B. to compile outstanding minutes, do the edits and send for approval.
- **Motion** to approve the updated F.W.S. Office description and organization chart for use in the CSM. These edits were requested by the CCC and approved by the BFOC. **Vote 5-0-0 Motion passes.**
- **Motion** to appoint Rick B. to the BOT for the 2010-2013 term. **Vote 5-0-0 Motion passes.**

#### March 10, 2012

- An announcement was made by the F.W.S. Office Supervisor that a temp was hired for the F.W.S. Copyright Desk.

- An announcement was made by the F.W.S. Office Supervisor that a temp was hired to assist the Mailroom Associate unpack a shipment of 5000 Basic Texts.
- **Motion** to approve Rick B. as the BGNC Chair. **Vote 6-0-0 Motion passes.**
- BOT Liaison to Conference Committees were reassigned.  
CAC-Steve, CBC-Rick, CCAC-Rick, CCC-TomF, CDC-Ayana, CFC-Steve, CHRC-Ayana, CIC-Rita,  
CJC-TomB, CLC-Rita, CPOC-Rick, CPIC-TomB, CSC-TomF, CSPC-TomB, CSTC-Ayana, CTC-Steve
- Discussion regarding Board members on Conference Committees in the role of liaisons versus members.
- **Consensus** to request the BFOC and ABM Planning Committee to review considerations and costs for shipping the ABM binders to delegates before the ABM upon request.
- **Consensus** to send a token of appreciation and letter to Leon C. for his BOT service and many visits to the F.W.S. office.

#### March 24, 2012

- **Special Meeting** to approve BOT Minutes from the 2011-2012 term for archiving and publication.

#### April 14, 2012

- **Consensus** to send 3 willing BOT representatives to May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting call with Inter-Fellowship Forum (IFF) to get information and afterwards make a decision if S.L.A.A. should host.
- **Consensus** for the BPRC to create a flyer for 2013-2014 bids within 10 days.
- **Consensus** that the CPIC "Do's List" does not require Conference approval, but recommends that the CPIC include a disclaimer that it is not Conference-approved material.
- Discussion about the BOT recruitment flyer.

#### April 28, 2012

- **Special Meeting** to approve BOT Minutes from the 2011-2012 term for archiving and publication.

## ***Is It Really Necessary?*** **To Request Permission to Copy, Distribute and/or Translate S.L.A.A. Conference-Approved Literature?**

This article provides information about the use and permissions required with regard to copying, distributing and/or translating currently available Conference-approved S.L.A.A. literature. There are 3 categories of literature: The **7 Core Documents of S.L.A.A.**, the Four Free S.L.A.A. Pamphlets and the S.L.A.A. literature sold by the F.W.S. Office.

### **The 7 Core Documents of S.L.A.A.**

If you visit the F.W.S. Website you will find that there are now 14 translations of the **7 Core Documents of S.L.A.A.** on the home page [www.slaafws.org](http://www.slaafws.org) The **7 Core Documents** provide a foundation for the S.L.A.A. program and give the basic information to recover from sex and love addiction and/or start an S.L.A.A. meeting in any language. The **7 Core Documents** in order of priority for translation and beginning the program of recovery are:

1. [Twelve Steps](#)
2. [Twelve Traditions](#)
3. [S.L.A.A. Preamble](#)
4. [Characteristics of Sex and Love Addiction](#)
5. [40 Questions for Self-Diagnosis](#)
6. [Signs of Recovery](#)
7. [12 Recommended Guidelines for Dealing with the Media](#)

You can click on the above links and find the appropriate copyright notice and disclaimers. These pages can be printed and used by any member, meeting, group or intergroup without permission.

The documents can also be translated without the need for authorization or need to confirm accuracy of translation. There is a disclaimer posted on the F.W.S. Website that if any member has a question about the translation of the core documents that the F.W.S. Office or Conference Translation Committee (CTC) may be contacted.

However, republication of more than 300 words of the **7 Core Documents of S.L.A.A.** not directly associated with the outreach and recovery activities of a member, meeting, group or intergroup requires written permission. The request is reviewed by the board subcommittee, Copyright-Translations Subcommittee (CTS), of the Board Finance and Operating Committee.

### **The Four Free Pamphlets of S.L.A.A.**

There are also four free pamphlets that may be copied, printed or downloaded directly from the F.W.S. Website (<http://www.slaafws.org/downloads#FreePamphlets>) without the need for authorization. These are:

1. [Addicted to Sex? Addicted to Love? Information About S.L.A.A. for You or Someone You Know](#)
2. [For the Professional: Information about S.L.A.A.](#)
3. [12 Recommended Guidelines for Dealing with the Media](#)
4. [Supporting S.L.A.A. the 60/40 Way](#)

Each pamphlet recommends copying and distributing freely because these pamphlets are frequently used in outreach and public information efforts.

The documents can also be translated without the need for authorization or need to confirm accuracy of translation. The office is in the process of preparing a disclaimer for these documents that if any member has a question about the translation of the four free pamphlets that the F.W.S. Office or Conference Translation Committee (CTC) may be contacted.

Again, republication of more than 300 words of the four free pamphlets not directly associated the with outreach and recovery activities of a member, meeting, group or intergroup requires written permission. The request is reviewed by the board subcommittee, Copyright-Translations Subcommittee (CTS), of the Board Finance and Operating Committee.



## **S.L.A.A. Literature Sold by the F.W.S. Office**

The book entitled **Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous Basic Text** ©1986 and all material contained within it; the 3 volume set of the **First Ten Years of the Journal 1989-1999** ©2003 as well as articles from the Conference-approved publication, *the Journal*, and the four *Journal Focus* booklets (articles on *Anorexia*, *Healthy Relationships*, *Twelve Steps* and *Withdrawal*) plus the following pamphlets or booklet require permission to quote more than 300 words or copy, distribute or translate.

Code	Name	Copyright Year
PAM-001	Introduction to Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous	1985
PAM-002	Sex and Love Addiction: 40 Q for Self-Dx	1985
PAM-003	Suggestions for Newcomers	1985
PAM-004	Questions Beginners Ask	1985
PAM-005	Sponsorship A Return from Isolation	1990
PAM-006	Addiction and Recovery	1990
PAM-007	Anorexia Sexual, Social Emotional	1992
PAM-008	Withdrawal: Gateway to Freedom	1995
PAM-009	Welcome	1997
PAM-010	Pocket Toolkit	2001
PAM-016	Renewal of Sobriety	2004
PAM-017	Setting Bottom Lines	2006
PAM-018	Romantic Obsessions	2010
BKP-001	Triggers as a Resource	2011

For more information please visit the F.W.S. Website link <http://www.slaafws.org/property> or contact the F.W.S. Copyright Desk at <http://www.slaafws.org/contact/fwscd>

***Respectfully submitted,***  
***Rita H.***  
***F.W.S. Office supervisor***  
***Board member***  
***May 13, 2012***

## **AA LITERATURE AS CONFERENCE APPROVED**

**Q –Should the AA Big Book and/or the AA 12 & 12 be made Conference Approved Literature; the reading of these is encouraged on page 66 of our Basic Text.**

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.

*(NOTE: this was a real-time discussion on the Committee conference call meeting.)* .....

**Background information:** Member's sponsor, a 20 year S.L.A.A. member, thought the AA literature was Conference approved; it is confusing since it is not approved. Have been to meetings where the 12 & 12 was read; pulled topics from Big Book; from experience it would

be great to add these to the list of approved literature; writers of Basic Text recommended this as a good resource to read. (According to the index of motions from the ABM through the years this has not been an agenda item.)

I don't believe that AA literature should become Conference approved since it is not our literature; since members are encouraged to read these books and other Fellowships encourage their use by members, I am not sure if we should make it Conference approved literature; I don't think that it would have to go through normal channels of Conference approval.

I think the AA literature (Big Book and 12 & 12) should be a part of our approved literature; I have been through these pieces of literature and they have enhanced my recovery; it has had a tremendous impact on me and could be very helpful to other people; addiction is addiction; the mental obsessions and mental cravings are so well presented that they would be a good supplement to our literature. It was recommended to me and I have noticed how these have enhanced the recovery of others.

I think these should be Conference approved literature; I used them in AA for a year before coming into S.L.A.A.; I was slipping for several years and did the work and had read our literature, but still slipping; I studied these with a sponsee weekly which helped me recognize my addiction and caused me to think of my qualifier for S.L.A.A., it got me sober and it is the reason I am now 10 years sober. I am a big believer in Traditions and wouldn't want to go against any of them; since we are based on AA, I think we should use them.

This could be a possible violation of Tradition 6 regarding endorsement; Big Book and 12 & 12 are great resources; it might not have to be Conference approved since this could cause a violation. We would have to endorse everything AA says, although they are useful tools; many members of this committee have referred to the 12 & 12 as well as the Al-Anon 12 & 12 as resources. AA's 12 & 12 is commonly used in meetings for Tradition studies. These can enhance our sobriety and be useful for use with a sponsee.

It could possibly be an endorsement of AA; I'm wondering if there could be a category of Conference approved outside literature; this could cause a lot of resources to come to the floor to become approved. Could we find a way to encourage people to use these two resources in their recovery process? I don't believe they could become S.L.A.A. approved.

Because these are great instruction tools to aid in areas where instructions are a little vague or lacking; AA does a clear job in giving instructions as to how to follow the Steps and Traditions.

Our founding members were in AA, so there is a foundation. I don't believe it would be an endorsement, since AA is our pattern.

It would have to go through CLC Literature approval process. Any member could place this on a BMIS as an Item for Discussion to get feedback from the Fellowship and if it were positive, it could go through the process and be placed on a subsequent BMIS as a motion for approval. Any member may, if they desire submit items as motions or IFDs for the BMIS.

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.

## GROUP DONATIONS

### **Q – After a recent meeting a member asked whether the group could make an anonymous donation to a local food bank or shelter. How would this relate to the 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.

*[NOTE: This question is of a similar nature to a previous question titled "Tradition 7 Violation?" which was published in the Spring 2012 edition of the FWS Newsletter. For additional discussion and thoughts you might want to refer to that question.]*

-----

The Seventh Tradition tells us that we are fully self-supporting. To me this means that we supply for the needs of the group when we place our money in the basket each week. Our needs include paying our rent, purchasing literature, and donating to the Fellowship, both locally and internationally. Since our primary purpose is to carry the message to the person who is still suffering with sex and love addiction (Tradition 5), the only things which I could justify as to uses for the funds we collect, is to use it to provide for the Program.

A group may, by group conscience (Tradition 4), decide to use the funds in the way it sees fit. However, even though local charities are very likely to be deserving of support, my fear is that, to make a donation of group money (even anonymously), would appear to be an endorsement and a means of financing that charity (Tradition 6). An additional danger could be that with support to the charity, should it become involved in controversy or scandal, would be that by our support, we could be drawn into that controversy (Tradition 10).

While these charities or food pantries could be very worthwhile and deserving of support, I would believe that this is something which the individual should, if desired, make that a personal donation.

-----

If the individual or a group want to donate to a charity on their own with full knowledge of the charity, that's wonderful, but I would say not to attach the S.L.A.A. name to it. (Tradition 12: "Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions...")

An S.L.A.A. group contributing to outside charities violates Traditions 6, 7 and 10:

6. An S.L.A.A. group or S.L.A.A. as a whole ought never endorse, finance, or lend the S.L.A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, or prestige divert us from our primary purpose: Donating to charities runs the risk of charities using the S.L.A.A. name. While groups are encouraged to cooperate with others, they ought to be

very careful not to affiliate, endorse, or bind itself to anyone. Even an anonymous donation implies endorsement.

7. Every S.L.A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions: It is concerning to accumulate funds beyond prudent reserves for no stated S.L.A.A. purpose. When members contribute, they ought to have a firm understanding of which cause they are supporting. If members believe they are supporting S.L.A.A. at the time of their contribution, perhaps extra funds could be donated to S.L.A.A. inter-groups or S.L.A.A. service committees which support S.L.A.A. and carry our message.

10. S.L.A.A. has no opinion on outside issues; hence the S.L.A.A. name ought never to be drawn into public controversy:

By giving to charities, issues arise concerning politics, reform, and sectarian religion. Choosing one charity over another could create controversy within a group

.....

Although according to Tradition 4, each group is autonomous, I would say that making a donation, even an anonymous one, to an outside organization is in breach of Tradition 6 (an S.L.A.A. group (...) should never endorse, finance (...)). Plus, considering the needs that S.L.A.A. has as a whole towards its members and the one in need of S.L.A.A. recovery, I would say that groups should consider Tradition 5 as to the primary purpose of any group as to carry the message to the sex and love addict who still suffer.

I understand that there might be great needs nearby, maybe some issues some members might encounter such as resorting to a food bank, but I think financial efforts to carry the message should come first, according to our Traditions.

.....

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.

## WEBSITE LINKS

**Q -Are there any regulations that disallow individual fellowship web designers to display a link at the bottom of the site to their own page? For example:**

**web site maintenance by ABC Web Design. I've noticed both instances, especially when they are hosted by a company. Is there any official policy on this? Thank you.**

*Note: This was a real time discussion in a CSTC meeting.*

.....

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.

.....

I agree with the fact that it violates Tradition 6. Do I take it that the Web designer is a volunteer? If not, companies might have a contractual clause that requires some kind of publicity. Even then, though, clauses should be negotiated as to not have a showing link to the company.

However, I might want to bring the fact that sometimes we need to resort to professionals, as mentioned in Tradition 8. But then, again, S.L.A.A. Webpages should not be a publicity window for any outside groups.

.....

It does seem to be a violation of Tradition 6 if the web designer puts a link to her own web page. We wouldn't want it to seem that S.L.A.A. was endorsing this person's outside work. And Tradition Twelve should be remembered -- we all volunteer our time and energy to keep S.L.A.A. going. "We give up personal desires for the common good, we realize that the sacrificial spirit -- well symbolized by anonymity -- is the foundation of them all " (A.A. Twelve and Twelve)

.....

This is a good question. Sometimes a requirement for using a free website service is a small link, "Create a free website at..." Free websites are beneficial for Groups or Intergroups with budgets to consider. There aren't any rules prohibiting this, though a group conscience would be in order.

That said, if you have a person designing and maintaining your website who wants to advertise themselves on its pages, that starts to touch on Tradition 6. See [http://www.slaafws.org/download/core-files/The\\_Twelve\\_Traditions\\_of\\_SLAA.pdf](http://www.slaafws.org/download/core-files/The_Twelve_Traditions_of_SLAA.pdf). I am copying this email to some others who can provide more concise information than I on the Twelve Traditions. They will be in touch.

.....

I am liberal in my interpretation of the Traditions. I think that it is OK in this case to have a personal link to someone's web building business. This is provided to be of service in providing the website and an opportunity for feedback to improve the website.

.....

This sounds tricky. It falls into possible endorsement of the individual. In our service work using Google Groups or Google Sites, we see something similar to this, but we are talking among ourselves instead of having outsiders reading what is posted. This could be considered as an endorsement of a commercial site.

.....

On the surface, I thought about Tradition 6 regarding endorsement, I have to also consider Tradition 4 on autonomy by a decision in Group Conscience of the Intergroup. It might not be a problem; if it is from a member of the Fellowship, it would be good to ask if they would be willing to have a disclaimer stating non-affiliation or endorsement. This would be similar to the way that we provide links to other S-Fellowships. On the Intergroup websites of US groups, about 25 – 33% have links to the web designer.

.....

I would like to know if they have to have the link by contract and if it is something which can be negotiated. I like the idea of a disclaimer.

.....

I wouldn't want to make a blanket statement because I do not know a lot about it. I would have difficulty in approving this without a lot of details. There would have to a lot of criteria around this situation. It could be a good idea, but not knowing what is on the linked website, I would want to consider the circumstances.

.....

There are a number of website hosts who will provide sites without any advertising links or pop-ups. This could be an advantageous source for struggling Intergroups who could not afford to use a paid service which could cost \$60 - \$120 per month.

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The CSTC is a group of volunteers, some of whom were ABM delegates, and others who volunteered out of interest. We do not represent a group conscience of S.L.A.A., but are committed to bringing thoughtful discussion and study of 12 Step Fellowship literature and experience to the questions that are brought to us. Other non-S.L.A.A. literature, such as AA or Al-Anon literature may have been accessed in order to see how other 12 Step Recovery Fellowships have addressed these issues. We offer this summary as the 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.

### LITERATURE ON THE TRADITIONS

**Q – I am a member of a meeting that would like to know if there is a "long-form" resource that we can use to give us guidance on discussing the SLAA traditions. We had thought that the AA 12 & 12 might be a good piece of literature to use, but there is a .pdf document on the SLAA national web site that indicates that it is not conference approved. We are at a loss as to what we can use. Help!**

---

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. *(NOTE: For the convenience of the reader we have pasted the document What is Conference Approved Literature? which is found on the FWS website. We would also refer the reader to a previous response titled Local Practices which was previously published in the FWS Newsletter, which contains further discussion regarding this subject.)*

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Chapter 7: "Starting an S.L.A.A. Group" in the S.L.A.A. Basic Text discusses the Traditions. Also, page 563 in the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous, is the long form of the Twelve Traditions.

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I'm sure that the majority of S.L.A.A. members are aware that we are in the process of creating a draft of the 12 Steps and Traditions of S.L.A.A. This project has been ongoing for several years and the Literature Committee is working to put this draft together from the sharing sheets which have been submitted.

However, groups may still conduct Traditions study meetings using the AA 12 & 12 or even the 12 & 12 of Al Anon. Although these are not Conference Approved materials, groups are able to use these resources by group conscience. Tradition 4 tells us that each group is

autonomous, which means that they can choose to follow whatever format they choose to use and to employ the resources of other 12 Step recovery programs if we are lacking in material on the subject. You may certainly change references to AA to S.L.A.A. as the members are reading in order to gain more understanding of the reasons behind the 12 Traditions.

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### **What is Conference Approved Literature?**

To date, S.L.A.A.'s Conference approved literature consists only of the following seventeen items:

- The S.L.A.A. Basic Text, and all material contained within it
- Addiction and Recovery (S.L.A.A. pamphlet)
- Welcome (S.L.A.A. pamphlet)
- Suggestions for Newcomers (S.L.A.A. pamphlet)
- Questions Beginners Ask (S.L.A.A. pamphlet)
- Anorexia (S.L.A.A. pamphlet)
- 40 Questions for Self Diagnosis (S.L.A.A. pamphlet)
- Sponsorship (S.L.A.A. pamphlet)
- Withdrawal (S.L.A.A. pamphlet)
- An Introduction to S.L.A.A. (S.L.A.A. pamphlet)
- Supporting S.L.A.A. the 60/40 Way (S.L.A.A. pamphlet)
- 12 Recommended Guidelines for Dealing with the Public Media (S.L.A.A. pamphlet)
- The Journal publication (but not the stories in it)
- Renewal of Sobriety (S.L.A.A. pamphlet)
- Addicted to Sex? Addicted to Love? (S.L.A.A. pamphlet)
- For the Professional: Information About S.L.A.A. (S.L.A.A. pamphlet)
- Setting Bottom Lines (S.L.A.A. pamphlet)
- Triggers as a Resource (S.L.A.A. booklet)

Additionally, the F.W.S. office has the authority to sell the following, which could be considered literature:

- S.L.A.A. bookmark, containing an index of recovery terms and concepts included in the Basic Text
- Pocket Toolkit, containing previously Conference approved literature excerpts
- Recovery Tapes/CDs
- F.W.S. Newsletter

The only other official positions concerning literature that are known follow:

- "These steps were first published in *Alcoholics Anonymous* (1939) and received a more detailed treatment in *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* (1953), both of which were written by Bill W. In presenting the S.L.A.A. version of the Twelve Steps here, we wish to do what A.A. had in mind in presenting them initially in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*. ... If you are thinking as you read this book that S.L.A.A. may be a fellowship worth serious consideration for your own problems, we recommend that you also read the books *Alcoholics Anonymous* (especially chapters 5-7) and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. We have found these books, in spite of their occasionally somewhat dated ideas and language, to be surprisingly appropriate and useful to us in applying the Twelve Steps to sex and love addiction. We substitute such words as 'our addiction' or 'sex and love addiction' for the direct references to alcoholism in those books. ... The Twelve Steps, as originally set forth in *Alcoholics Anonymous*, do provide a

comprehensive and thorough approach to the problem of dealing with addiction, including sex and love addiction." (S.L.A.A. Basic Text, pages 66-67). "The Conference understands that some patterns of our addiction have a lack of experience reflected within our literature. In an effort to fill this gap, we encourage members to submit their personal experience to *the Journal* and the Conference Literature Committee for sharing with the entire Fellowship. While each group is autonomous, the Conference does not encourage the use of non-Conference Approved literature (outside literature does not include S.L.A.A. literature in draft form). If any group chooses to use non-Conference Approved literature, it ought to be clearly defined as such. We do encourage the practice of our 12 Steps and 12 Traditions for all members and groups in recovery from our addiction." (Adopted by the 2002 Conference)

- "The Board of Trustees, at its December 6, 1997 meeting, verified that A.A. literature is not conference approved. It is recommended reading. There has been no motion passed that made it conference approved literature. Please pass the word on to those that ask." (Announced in the January 1998 F.W.S. Newsletter)
- "The Board of Trustees (BOT) of Fellowship Wide Services (F.W.S.) has been requested by the Conference of Delegates to send this letter to you. A motion was passed at the last Annual Business Meeting (ABM) that requested the BOT to encourage all groups in the fellowship to use conference approved literature. The intent of this letter is to carry forward the positive tone of the motion. The operative word in this effort is 'encourage.'
- "The BOT and Delegates are very sensitive to, and supportive of, group autonomy as expressed in the S.L.A.A. Fourth Tradition. Please communicate to your group(s) that the BOT and the Delegates to the ABM do not wish to interfere in any way with group autonomy. We are also mindful of the suggestion given to members to read certain Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) literature, particularly the Big Book and the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, as mentioned in the S.L.A.A. Basic Text p.66. However, the use of non-conference approved literature, particularly commercial literature used exclusively by some S.L.A.A. meetings, has led to difficulties with unity among the fellowship. The First Tradition reminds us that: 'Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon S.L.A.A. unity.'
- "Another issue for your group to consider is the matter of endorsement raised by the S.L.A.A. Sixth Tradition. This tradition states that an S.L.A.A. group or S.L.A.A. as a whole ought never to endorse any outside enterprise. The use of outside literature, particularly commercial literature in meetings, could be perceived to be inconsistent with this tradition, especially by the newcomer. Similarly, the practice of using A.A. literature, or the literature of other fellowships in meetings could be perceived as being inconsistent with non-affiliation, as expressed by the S.L.A.A. Third Tradition.
- "Therefore, S.L.A.A. groups are encouraged to use S.L.A.A. Conference approved literature. This encouragement is intended by both the Board and the Delegates to be consistent with S.L.A.A. Second Tradition, which states: 'For our group purpose, there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as this Power may be expressed through our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.'" (Open Letter to the Fellowship from John S., Chair of the BOT, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, published in the January 1998 F.W.S. Newsletter)

In sum, only S.L.A.A. literature, approved at an Annual Business Meeting (or equivalent) by a properly constituted Conference, qualifies as Conference approved literature. Although the A.A. books, *Alcoholics Anonymous* and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, as noted above, are considered recommended reading, they are not Conference approved literature - nor is any other A.A. literature or the literature from any other Twelve Step Program, including other "S" programs.

.....

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.

## OUTREACH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Q –If a group was to submit the following listing to local newspapers and community radio stations as a community service announcement would this violate any Traditions? “Do you have a problem with avoiding sex or intimacy? Do you feel unable to express your emotions fully or to emotionally connect with others? Do you feel that your capacity to have romantic relationships is damaged or dead? For more info please visit (website link).**

*Editorial note: this was a real time discussion at a CSTC meeting.*

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.

-----  
This is similar to what other Fellowships have used in the past.  
-----

Personally I don't see any violation of Tradition. Tradition 11 speaks of attraction over promotion. We are not speaking about using personality. This looks very much like ads you see on public transportation or in the newspaper. I am troubled a bit regarding a question regarding expressing feelings freely: many people have these difficulties, this could be more related to anorexia.

-----  
Using 12 Guidelines for Dealing with the Media, this doesn't seem to be in violation of this as long as it is by Group Conscience. This sounds much like ads I have seen on TV for other Programs. I don't see anything wrong with it.  
-----

I don't see any Tradition violations. I am a bit put off by the word “dead” in one of the questions. I prefer to use more flexible and comfortable vocabulary. The word is jarring and unattractive, instead of being attractive.

-----  
I do not see a Tradition violation and I believe that we are agreeing with the 12 Guidelines for Dealing with the Media. I understand the concerns of others regarding not advertising, but in this situation do not have a problem with this.  
-----

I have no problem with this ad. It is something which we need in S.L.A.A., because the only way people can be attracted to us is if they know of us. This is a public service. Tradition 4 gives them the autonomy by group conscience to do this. Tradition 11 gives the information for people to be attracted to us. This is not promoting. This is a great idea because it lets people know that we are here with information if they have a problem. The CPIC is working on announcements for groups, Intergroups and committees to use. We will see more of this in the future.

-----  
Since this is information regarding an anorexia retreat, the mention of emotions is important.  
-----

It is good to stress the emotions involved because many are emotionally anorexic and may also have sexual difficulties. They may be in denial regarding sexual component of their issues. Emphasizing the emotional part instead of the sexual part is good.

.....

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### **Stories Book Project**

Hi Members of S.L.A.A., from Ron G, Chair, Stories Book Project,

We are looking for volunteers to help create stories about S.L.A.A. recovery. We need members to write his/her story, and members to help the writers. We want stories of members with writing skills and other members. We will be matching story tellers with writers, if necessary.

If you have written for the *Journal* or the S.L.A.A. Basic Text, we would like to encourage you to expand your story. Please make it long and detailed with several sections about different aspects of your recovery. Include details about your interactions with your sponsors, sponsees, temporary sponsors, co-sponsors and recovery partners and, provide examples of the processes you used to work the Steps. Although “what it was like” and “what it is like now” are important, we are particularly interested in the activities that helped you change.

We will work with you and keep in contact as your story develops and is prepared for publication. We may choose later on to lift a particular section on a specific topic for some publication such as the 12X12, a possible revision of the Basic Text, or other S.L.A.A. publications.

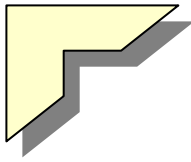
Send your questions or to volunteer, contact us through the Conference Literature Committee via the F.W.S. website link <http://www.slaafws.org/contact/Conference+Literature+Committee>  
We are interested in stories from members outside the USA, including people who speak English as a second language and members who do not speak English. At this time, we cannot provide translators for all languages, so we suggest that you find someone who can translate your draft into English.



## **S.L.A.A. Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions Book**

The fellowship has voted to create a Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book for SLAA. We have collected over 300 shares about our experiences with each Step or Tradition. We need writing groups of one or more individuals to turn those shares into chapters. Here's what you can do:

- go to [www.slaafws.org/submit1212](http://www.slaafws.org/submit1212) to submit your share.
- go to [www.slaafws.org/contact/Conference+Literature+Committee](http://www.slaafws.org/contact/Conference+Literature+Committee) to express interest in forming a writing group to write a chapter
- Contact the Conference Literature Committee at the above address and tell them you want to be a "friend" of the CLC. This will allow you to give feedback on chapters as they are being written.



## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CORNER

CCC REPORT May 2012

### Conference Charter Committee

The CCC has met regularly all year on the first Sunday of each month. There are currently four submissions on the BMIS and a fifth is being considered.

The CSM revision work group has decided to make the revision process into a two-year workgroup in order to incorporate all changes into one finished product. We are meeting only once a month until after the ABM.

The Scheduling workgroup has finished the schedule and is currently looking to fill general session time slots with facilitators. Changes from last year's schedule include moving the International Speaker Panel to Tuesday evening and moving the auction to earlier on Wednesday. The San Diego Intergroup is hosting another Bonfire on the Beach Thursday night.

The CCC has been discussing the use of SKYPE technology on conference calls and is looking forward to feedback from the Chairs group.

The CCC has also been discussing the Accountability process (Appendix H CSM.) and is also looking for feedback from the Chairs call.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jack S.  
CCC Chair

### Prison Outreach Committee

## **WE NEED YOUR HELP**

### **BECOME A PRISON PEN PAL**

**Inmates all over the U.S. are waiting for someone to aid them in their recovery from their sex and love addiction. (They may or may not be serving time as a sex offender.)**

**Please commit yourself to write 1 or more letters per month to your pen pal.**

**Help inmates as they work the 12 Steps and find recovery from their addiction and discover that there is a better way to live their life.**

**Do you have 3 months sobriety and a great desire to help these individuals?**

**Contact us at [prison\\_outreach@slaafws.org](mailto:prison_outreach@slaafws.org) to volunteer and we will provide you with a list of our suggested writing guidelines and help you get started. We always have people waiting for your help.**

*Tradition 3 – “The only requirement for S.L.A.A .membership is the desire to stop living out a pattern of sex and love addiction...”; Tradition 5 “...carry its message to the sex and love addict who still suffers.”*

## Conference Service Committee

### **LADDER OF SERVICE** (member/group/Intergroup/Conference) Mon-15-Feb-2010

The Conference Service Committee (CSC) is asking Conference Committees, local groups and Intergroups to consider how members move into service. Some types of service require no preparation, while other types may require a far greater commitment and level of preparation. The CSC is designing a 'ladder of service' that may help members assess their service choices. The goal of the service ladder is to better prepare members for service at the Conference level and perhaps increase the number of available experienced candidates for Conference Committee work. Other goals are to provide the Conference Committees with continuity and to promote rotation of service. The concept of a service ladder is not new and many groups and Intergroups currently have guidelines or a system for introducing members into various levels of service. The ideas on this ladder are –only– suggestions. A few of these activities require election by a group, but many are available to anyone choosing to volunteer and can be used by a group or Intergroup at any time. The suggested rungs on the ladder are considered a start and do not need to be followed in the order listed. Variations are welcome, as groups and Intergroups are unique and autonomous. Discussions among Conference members, Conference Committees, Conference Friends, Intergroups, Groups and members are encouraged. The CSC has a particular interest in how members become elected Delegates. Preparation that can familiarize a member with Conference work before being elected Delegate is to our Fellowship's advantage. For that reason, the CSC suggests Alternate Delegates serve on a Conference Committee of their choice before Delegate candidacy. The CSC suggests that future Delegates and Alternate Delegates participate on a Conference Committee before volunteering to be a Delegate or Alternate Delegate, or start as soon as they are elected. The CSC suggests that past Delegates serve on a Conference Committee for at least 2 or 3 years after attending an ABC/M. For more information or to volunteer at the FWS level, contact the CSC (Conference Service Committee) or any Conference Committee using [www.slaafws.org/committeecontacts](http://www.slaafws.org/committeecontacts).

## **Ladder of Service**

### **Local face-to-face (f2f) meetings:**

- Set up
- Clean up
- Coffee maker
- Greeter(s)
- Meeting Leader – reads the format and calls upon shares
- Timekeeper
- Literature person (sales of Conference Approved Literature)
- Representative
- Information person – provides copies of information available by email or from the web. (Includes copies of draft literature being prepared for Conference Approval.)
- Group Secretary
- Group Chair
- Group Treasurer
- Meeting Material Custodian (box keeper)
- Other local face-to-face meeting service positions
- Key holder (person with the key to the church or meeting location)
- Intergroup service (optional) without being the Intergroup representative
- Intergroup Representative

### **Local Intergroup meetings:**

- Contact your Intergroup or Group's Intergroup Representative for service opportunities

### **International (FWS) level service**

#### **– Conference Committees, Conference Subcommittees and Writing Groups:**

- Friend of Conference Committee(s)

- Non-delegate newcomer to Conference Subcommittee service
- Non-delegate newcomer to Conference Committee service
- Writing Group member
- Writing Group Chairperson
- Conference Literature Committee (CLC) liaison to a Writing Group
- Conference Committee member
- Conference Subcommittee Vice-Chair
- Conference Subcommittee Chair
- Alternate Delegate of Intergroup or Lone Group
- Delegate of Intergroup or Lone Group
- Service Sponsor (A service sponsor may sponsor a number of members regarding service and Traditions and ideally announce their availability to do this at meetings.)
- Conference Committee Vice-Chair
- Conference Committee Chair
- Conference Committee Mentor – mentoring Chair, Vice-Chair, Subcommittee Chair(s) and Vice-Chair(s), members, newcomers, inquirers and visitors based upon prior Conference Committee experience, strength and hope. (This person might hold a position of Conference Committee Vice-Chair.)

### **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 12, 2012  
November 11, 2012  
February 10, 2013  
May 12, 2013

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.