



Fellowship-Wide Services Newsletter

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

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BOT Chair Report- After the ABM

Greetings fellow S.L.A.A. Members. My name is Susan, I'm a sex and love addict and I am your new Board Chair for the upcoming year. You may remember that since April, I have been the Office Supervisor. At this Annual Business meeting (ABM) held in San Antonio August 6th -9th, it was decided by the Board of Trustees (BOT) that the Chair of the BOT would assume the supervision of the General Manager, essentially eliminating the position of "Office Supervisor." Supervision of the S.L.A.A. F.W.S. Office is done by the General Manager, Lisa McGrath, who in turn is supervised by the Board Chair. I hope I am not confusing anyone. If you have any questions about this, please feel free to contact me at <http://www.slaafws.org/eqpvcevdqvej.ck>.

The following **BOT Officers** were nominated and elected at the ABM:

Susan G. - BOT Chair, Corporate President
Steve B. - BOT Treasurer, Corporate Treasurer
Rick B. - BOT Secretary, Corporate Secretary

BOT Committee Chairs:

BGNC Chair: Tom F.
BPRC Chair: Rick B.
BFOC Finance Chair: Steve B.
BFOC Operations Chair: Bob G.

The following **new BOT members** were elected: Bob G., Sue B., Martina A. Let's give them a

warm welcome! Service is sobering! Thank-you all for being willing to serve.

The following BOTs are assigned as liaisons to these **Conference Committees:**

Sue B.:

Diversity Committee
Healthy Relationships
Service Committee

Martina A.:

Anorexia Committee
Sponsorship Committee
Translations Committee

Bob G.:

Finance Committee
Interfellowship Committee
Prison Outreach
Steps and Traditions

Rick B.:

Conference By-Laws
Concepts Adaptations
Intergroup Communications
Journal Committee
Public Information

Tom F.:

Member Relations to the BOT and F.W.S.
Members Retention

Steve B.:

Conference Charter Committee
Internet Committee (renamed to Information
Technology)
Literature Committee

At the ABM, besides conducting a lot of important business which you will be able to read about in a future edition of the F.W.S. newsletter and later on our website, we had a lot of fun. We had a “Get to Know the Delegates” session, where members sang, recited poems, and told jokes. We also had a live auction of

items that people brought from their hometowns all over the world. What a blast! Rick B. was so funny in his Minnie Pearl hat! We raised \$2,259.00 at the auction, and a member made an anonymous donation of \$3,000.00 dollars. We also had a raffle of recovery items such as a Basic Text soft cover, the Basic Text on audiotape, pamphlets, CDs, literature, medallions, bracelets, etc. The raffle raised \$369.00. We also brought merchandise from the store to sell at the ABM and folks bought \$4,151.10 worth!

The beneficiary of the ABC/M Registration and Housing "Special Raffle" valued at \$445 was: Alice D. from the Los Angeles Intergroup

Lastly, it was announced at the ABM that next year's ABM (2014) will be held in Houston, Texas. Thank you, Houston Intergroup, for stepping up to this opportunity to be of service!

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Board Public Relations Committee

New BPRC Chair Report

August 16 2013

Salutations fellow S.L.A.A. Members,

It is my duty to introduce myself to you. My name is Rick B.(FL) and at the end of the 2013 ABM (Annual Business Conference,) I was elected to the position of Board Public Relations Committee (BPRC) Chair. Prior to coming to this committee, I was the Chair of the Board Governance and Nominating Committee (BGNC) from March of 2012, when I was appointed to the Board and elected chair of that Committee.

I would like to share some of the activities that the BPRC has engaged in over the past Conference-year. The BPRC fielded over 12 media requests, created a flowchart showing the process for Literature after Conference approval, engaged in outreach effort at national Healthcare Professionals conventions, created a webpage for S.L.A.A. outreach materials, and created a letter to treatment centers about the benefits of sending their sex and love addicted clients to S.L.A.A.

The Board has been working with a Board development Consultant to help the Board to become more “strategic” in our planning and follow-through. It turns out that Public Relations is most effective when it is practiced throughout the Fellowship. You see, ensuring that each member within S.L.A.A. has a strong positive view of the Fellowship is the most effective way to engage in outreach. And one of the ways the BPRC is working toward this is by asking S.L.A.A. members to fill-out a Membership Survey. This survey will help assess our outreach efforts, help to make sure that our members are getting the support they need to succeed, and that the Fellowship knows what resources are available.

Once the Membership Survey information has been completed and compiled, the BPRC will draft an Outreach Plan and develop steps that will bring about greater effectiveness. Plus, the Survey information will help to identify needs of the Fellowship's members and give greater clarity as to which of the programs that S.L.A.A. provides can be of the greatest benefit. Another suggestion of the Board Consultant is to focus on the programs of the Fellowship and work

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on allocating resources to bring about greater effectiveness.

I look forward to being of service to the Fellowship for another year. Please, feel free to contact me with questions about Public Relations at <http://www.slaafws.org/contact/bprc>.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick B. - Chair BPRC

Board Public Relations Committee Annual Report 2013

The current membership of the BPRC consists of BOT members Tom B. (Chair, CA), Rita H. (Canada), and non-BOT members Deb W. (OH), Martina A. (Germany), and Sue B. (UK).

Subcommittees:

Web Team – Susan G. (Chair), Tom B., Tom F., Beth S.

The Web Team oversees the F.W.S. Website and any decisions regarding content and internal policies are referred to the group conscience.

Call Squad Oversight Team (CSOT) – Tom B. (Chair), Susan G., Moses C.

The Call Squad Oversight Team oversees the Call Squad comprised of twelve members who reach out via personal telephone calls to 71 Intergroup Liaisons to relay messages and announcements between S.L.A.A.-F.W.S. and S.L.A.A. Intergroups several times a year. The CSOT approved and assembled flyers and announcements for three Call Squad outreach efforts in the 2012-2013 term for October, February and April/May.

Conference/Convention Planning Committee –

The BPRC functioned in the capacity of the Conference /Convention Planning Committee (CCPC), which was created to assist with the planning of the 2011-12 ABM Bids in San Diego. The BPRC has recommended that the Board dissolve the CCPC, with suggestions to create a new committee tasked with selecting locales for future ABMs and IRCs many years in advance to ensure stability and greater participation.

This year the BPRC established a December 1, 2012 deadline for all 2014/2014-2015 ABC/M bids from those Intergroups wanting to serve as the host site for the 2014/2014-2015 ABC/M. 3 Intergroups (Houston Intergroup, Greater Delaware Valley Intergroup, and United Kingdom Intergroup) prepared bids. The BPRC reviewed and asked two rounds of follow-up questions to gather the appropriate information. During the second round of questions, Greater Delaware Valley Intergroup and United Kingdom Intergroup respectfully withdrew their bids. The BPRC submitted the Houston Intergroup bid to the Board for final review.

F.W.S. Newsletter – Deb W. (Editor)

The newsletter is produced on a quarterly basis. As of April 4, 2013, the electronic delivery list for the F.W.S. Newsletter numbers 1602 email addresses. The F.W.S. Newsletter gives S.L.A.A. members an overview of the activities of the Board of Trustees, the F.W.S. office, Conference Committees and Intergroups world-wide.

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Find out about new literature, new tools for recovery on the F.W.S. website, what happened at the Annual Business Meeting, what is going on with F.W.S. finances, and more.

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**Summary of BPRC Projects for
Conference Year 2012-13***

*Projects listed below were specific to this Conference
Year unlike ongoing projects such as the F.W.S. Newsletter.

Media Requests	The BPRC received over twelve media requests from the public this year through the F.W.S. Website. Several requests were denied for failing to adhere to our <i>12 Recommended Guidelines for Dealing with the Media</i> (for instance, lack of anonymity.) Other requests did not respond to follow-up emails. Only one request continued through the approval process, and twelve S.L.A.A. volunteers were contacted with two consenting to be interviewed anonymously for informational purposes to assist in the creation of a theatrical piece about recovery.
Anorexia 123 Review	The BPRC reviewed and approved Anorexia 123, which is now available through the F.W.S. Store.
Process for Literature After Conference Approval	The BPRC created a flowchart delineating the process for literature after being approved by the Conference.

BPRC Active Projects	
Process for the Creation of Professional Literature on a Fee Basis	The BPRC recommended the creation of a task force composed of BPRC Chair, BFOC Chair and CLC Chair to implement the Conference's mandate for F.W.S. to hire professional writers to develop S.L.A.A. literature.
S.L.A.A. Outreach Effort at National Healthcare Professional Conventions	The BPRC arranged for free S.L.A.A. participation at two national conventions (the Society for the Advancement of Sexual Health in San Antonio and the Conference on Sex and Love Addiction in Brooklyn) and coordinated with the F.W.S. Office for volunteers to distribute information. The BPRC also approved an updated <i>Letter to the Professional</i> (included below) and volunteer survey to evaluate outreach efforts, and created a handout familiarizing volunteers with S.L.A.A. history and helpful information. The BPRC is in the process of developing a policy for future participation at healthcare professional conventions.
Creation of ABM/IRC Bid Application	The BPRC is in the process of creating a simplified standard application for Intergroups to submit bids to host ABMs/IRCs.
F.W.S. You-Tube Channel for PSAs	The BPRC has requested the Conference Public Information Committee (CPIC) to provide suggestions for creating a policy to approve Public Service Announcements (PSAs) observing the <i>12 Recommended Guidelines for Dealing with the Media</i> to appear on an official S.L.A.A. You-Tube channel.

S.L.A.A. Awareness Campaign	The BPRC has discussed the need for a Fellowship-wide awareness campaign to make personal contact with local healthcare professionals and other organizations who might benefit from learning about S.L.A.A. recovery to pass on to their patients/clients.
S.L.A.A.-Teen Information Program	The BPRC continues to discuss ways to meet the needs of teen sex and love addicts through providing information while preserving the safety of the rooms.
Virtual Participation of Under-Represented Intergroups	The BPRC continues to explore virtual teleconferencing with the hopes of conducting worldwide service trainings or hosting virtual meetings of Intergroup representatives in an effort to involve more Intergroups at the Conference level, both to learn about local recovery and to encourage members around the world to serve on Conference and Board Committees.

Submitted by Tom B., BPRC Chair

TO: TREATMENT CENTERS AND MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Greetings,

We are writing to introduce you to Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous (S.L.A.A.), a Twelve Step, Twelve Tradition-oriented fellowship based on the model pioneered by Alcoholics Anonymous.

The only qualification for S.L.A.A. membership is a desire to stop living out a pattern of sex and love addiction. Many of our members have been able to maintain continuous abstinence from the various aspects of this addiction through the help and support of our meetings. Moreover, many of us have learned of the S.L.A.A. fellowship through our contacts with therapists or through treatment centers.

If you wish to refer a client to S.L.A.A., s/he can contact the Fellowship-Wide Services (F.W.S.) Office, or visit the F.W.S. Website at www.slaafws.org for information on meetings in his/her area. S.L.A.A. meetings are attended by men and women, individuals and couples, and people of all sexualities, identities, backgrounds and beliefs. Members report how healing it is to hear from the diversity of our membership, providing them with perspective, understanding and empathy.

Currently there are over 1,200 meetings with roughly 16,000 members located throughout the world. If you have clients who travel, they can attend an S.L.A.A. meeting in over 42 countries, as well as Online Meetings and Telephone Meetings available every day of the week.

In addition to providing information to the newcomer, S.L.A.A. also has a Prison Outreach Committee, which makes literature and pen pals available to inmates.

We invite you to contact us if you would like additional information. Visit the F.W.S. Website for a free issue of the Journal, our official bimonthly magazine, or to download the free S.L.A.A. pamphlet "*For The Professional*" in our resources section. Please feel free to pass this information on to other helping professionals who may benefit from this information in their work with sex and love addicts.

Sincerely,
F.W.S. Office Staff
Board of Trustees

2013 S.L.A.A. Membership Survey



The purpose of this survey is to better understand the members of S.L.A.A. and how to best serve the fellowship. A report of the results will be posted on the F.W.S. Website (www.slaafws.org) and published in the F.W.S. Newsletter early 2014.

The survey is completely confidential and takes about 5-10 minutes to complete. If you have any questions when completing it, feel free to contact the Board Public Relations Committee at <http://www.slaafws.org/contact/bprc>.

Go to <http://www.slaafws.org/2013survey> to take the survey.

Board Governance and Nominating Committee BOT Elections Report August 16 2013

Greetings fellow S.L.A.A. Members,
I am writing this report as the outgoing Board Governance and Nominating Committee (BGNC) chair. Having just gotten back from the 2013 Annual Business Meeting (ABM), it is my pleasure to announce that the activities of the F.W.S. Conference went off without a hitch. The reasons are myriad, but the help of many individuals AND committees were crucial for this success.

The highlight of the ABM was, for me, the BGNC activities that lead up to BOT elections; which are held on the last day of the ABM. The BGNC was given eleven recommendations for Board service this Conference year. Invitations were given out to those individuals and five became non-BOT members of Board Committees. And of that number, three were willing to go through the process of becoming Candidates for BOT service. The Candidates filled out

a BOT service Questionnaire that includes an essay, then an Oral Interview, both of which were transcribed and handed out to the Delegates, and finally each Candidate gave a brief discussion of the 11th Tradition (the Theme of this year's ABM) with a question and answer session in front of the Delegates.

Of the three Candidates, it is an honor for me to inform the Fellowship that all of them were elected to the open 3-year terms that began with the election results and comes to an end at the last General Assembly of the 2016 ABM. The new Trustees are: Martina A. (Germany), Sue B.(UK) and Bob G.(MA). I have had the wonderful opportunity to get to know them as they went through the process that led to the elections. Please allow me to introduce them to you.

Martina A. comes to us from the Board Public Relations Committee (BPRC) where she has been a non-BOT member. She was a Delegate from the German Speaking Intergroup (DSI) last year and this year, and has been the Chair of the Conference Sponsorship Committee (CSPC). On the topic of service, Martina says, "Ever since I started doing service in S.L.A.A., I discovered that service is essential for my recovery. For a long time, I thought all I had to do was work the Steps but that was wrong. After all, the S.L.A.A. Preamble says that service is one of our major resources."

Sue B. also comes to us from the BPRC where she was a non-BOT member. Sue was a Delegate from the United Kingdom Intergroup last year and this year. And before that she was Chair of the UK Intergroup from September 2010 to June 2012. Sue says, "Service has been a huge thing for me in my recovery. It's certainly, for me, all about just giving back what I have freely and gratefully received. And pretty much within a few weeks of me joining this Fellowship, I started doing service."

Bob G. (MA) comes to us from the Board Finance and Operating Committee (BFOC), where he has been a member for almost 2 years as a non-BOT member. Bob was a Delegate for the New England Intergroup (NEI) this year and in 2010. He has also been treasurer for NEI. Bob shares this about service: "When I came into the program six years ago, there was a great deal given to me - my sponsor and the Program itself. And I think now it's time for me to give back to the Conference some of what I have received.

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These newly elected Trustees bring the total number of the Board to seven. That is one more than we had last year! Each of the new Trustees has a Board mentor assigned to them to help with the transition onto the Board and help shorten the learning-curve. Martina A. is now a member of the BGNC, Sue B. is still a member of the BPRC, and Bob G. has been elected to the new post of BFOC/Board Operations Committee - Chair. This is in keeping with the recommendations that were given to the Board by the Consultant that we hired to help bring the BOT from a “working” Board (which was necessary while the Office needed to be stabilized, but now that the Office is stable it is no longer needed) to a “strategic” Board.

These recommendations are meant to help spread-out the workload among the Trustees more evenly, and to separate the responsibilities into more logical committees that are forward-focused. One of these recommendations is that the BGNC be changed into a Board Development Committee (BDC). Eventually, this committee will be populated by the chairs of the other Board Committees, but during the interim-period, it will continue much as it has up to this point. The new Chair of the BGNC/BDC is Tom F. (FL) who is our out-going Board Chair.

And finally, I would like to take a moment to thank the Board for allowing me the opportunity to serve as the Chair of this Committee during this past Conference-year. Service is one of the 5 S's that I take as Tools of the Fellowship. Service teaches me to be giving, unselfish, and humble.

Submitted in the Spirit of Service,

Rick B. BGNC/BDC – Chair (out-going)

**Board Finance and Operating Committee –
Finance
Treasurers Report
August 16 2013**

I write this report after returning from the Annual Business Meeting/Conference (ABM) which was held August 6th through 9th in San Antonio, Texas. Our newly elected Board Chair, Susan G., has reported on the details of the Conference itself, but I want to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the individuals, both volunteer and staff, who put together a successful and enjoyable ABM. I cannot possibly thank here all those who contributed to the success of this year's

ABM, but I do want to mention Susan G., our General Manager Lisa McGrath, Beth S. and the ABM Planning Committee she chaired, outgoing Board Chair Tom F., Rita H. and Jack S., the Conference Charter Committee Chair as well the Charter Committee and its Agenda Review Subcommittee.

Although I was elected by the Board of Trustees to serve for the third year as Treasurer of Fellowship-Wide Services (F.W.S.), I am writing this Report in a somewhat new capacity. Pursuant to the recommendation of the consultant hired by the Board of Trustees (BOT), the functions of the Board Finance and Operating Committee (BFOC) will be split between Operations and Finance. I will serve as Chair of Finance, and Bob G. of Massachusetts will serve as Chair of Operations. Bob G. served for almost two full years as a non-BOT member of the BFOC before being elected to the BOT at the ABM.

We just completed the Conference Year (which ran from the 2012 ABM to the 2013 ABM) and my term as Treasurer will correspond with the new Conference Year. June 30th, however, marked the end of the third quarter of the Fellowship-Wide Services (F.W.S.) Fiscal Year. At the end of the third quarter, F.W.S. held approximately \$242,000 in the various accounts, including a little under \$158,000 in the Prudent Reserve Fund (PRF). As of the end of July we had received a number of registrations for the ABM, and our operating funds are increased by the registration monies this time of year, decreasing as soon as the ABM is paid for. A report of ABM registrations, sales, donations and expenses will be prepared soon. The quarterly Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Financial Reports are included in this Newsletter.

As Treasurer, I have been occupied over recent months with a legal project which was ratified at the ABM. In 2012, it was discovered that The Augustine Fellowship, Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, Fellowship Wide Services, Inc., a Massachusetts Corporation, was out of technical compliance with Massachusetts law which requires all domestic non-profits to maintain a principal place of business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. As a result, F.W.S. was unable to bring its annual reports current but learned also that it was not possible to just “move” its existing Incorporation to another State.

The Board has been working with a non-profit specialist attorney to incorporate in the State of Texas and has obtained non-profit status for this new entity in an expedited manner. The Conference approved the change of State of Incorporation at the ABM and we are hoping to have all of the assets transferred to the new Corporation by the end of the fiscal year (September 30th, 2013). Further details on this matter can be found in the Financial Report Presentation, given at the ABM which will be posted on the F.W.S. website, as well as in the Motion included in the 2013 ABM Agenda.

I look forward to serving another year as your trusted servant in the capacity of Treasurer. As always, feel free to contact me with questions about the Finances of your Fellowship-Wide Services at <http://www.slaafws.org/contact/SB>.

Steve B.
Chair BFOC-Finance
Treasurer

F.W.S. Newsletter Submission Format

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

- ❖ Please use the email address created specifically for submissions to the F.W.S. 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 F.W.S. Newsletter, the deadlines are published.
- ❖ Please remember that the F.W.S. 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 F.W.S. 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:
November 10, 2013
February 9, 2014
May 11, 2014

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

Respectfully submitted, Deb W.

	Oct 12	Nov 12	Dec 12	Jan 13	Feb 13	Mar 13	Apr 13	May 13	Jun 13	TOTAL
Ordinary Income/Expense										
Income										
40000 · ABC/M Income										
40200 · ABC/M Registration	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,215.00	7,440.00	11,900.00	7,052.50	28,607.50
40300 · ABC/M TEF Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	450.00	1,050.00	1,800.00	1,050.00	4,350.00
40400 · ABC/M Scholarship Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	105.00	350.00	455.00
Total 40000 · ABC/M Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,665.00	8,490.00	13,805.00	8,452.50	33,412.50
42000 · Contribution Income										
42100 · Groups	3,438.66	5,352.12	2,760.81	4,697.37	5,207.62	3,882.25	2,710.66	4,116.94	3,094.78	35,261.21
42200 · Individuals	340.00	12,858.20	5,258.51	1,585.80	694.10	397.69	1,190.50	855.40	748.91	23,929.11
42300 · Intergroups	1,214.98	7,162.72	1,696.66	3,258.34	1,644.08	1,808.61	616.88	7,924.29	2,364.93	27,691.49
Total 42000 · Contribution Income	4,993.64	25,373.04	9,715.98	9,541.51	7,545.80	6,088.55	4,518.04	12,896.63	6,208.62	86,881.81
48999 · Merchandise & Other Income										
49000 · Sales Income	13,323.41	17,705.98	13,253.98	13,725.83	16,815.83	24,654.28	15,770.50	12,384.63	20,030.57	147,665.01
49100 · Shipping	2,094.80	1,626.56	1,604.84	2,304.13	2,415.12	2,937.63	2,137.51	1,679.08	2,280.02	19,079.69
49902 · Dues, Fees, Licenses, Royalties	10.18	0.00	1,091.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,301.18
49110 · Subsidies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-1.54	0.00	0.00	-1.54
Total 48999 · Merchandise & Other Income	15,428.39	19,332.54	15,949.82	16,229.96	19,230.95	27,591.91	17,906.47	14,063.71	22,310.59	168,044.34
Total Income	20,422.03	44,705.58	25,665.80	25,771.47	26,776.75	36,345.46	30,914.51	40,765.34	36,971.71	288,338.65
Cost of Goods Sold										
50000 · Cost of Goods Sold										
50900 · Shipping Expense	1,946.21	1,421.45	1,248.35	2,308.51	2,385.64	2,405.81	2,321.76	1,705.95	2,055.32	17,799.00
50950 · Shipping - For resent orders	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.70	0.00	0.00	5.70
66800 · Journal Printing & Mailing	0.00	1,160.35	0.00	973.42	0.00	998.15	0.00	968.65	0.00	4,100.57
70000 · Inventory adjustment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.25
50000 · Cost of Goods Sold - Other	2,216.56	2,545.95	2,270.46	1,927.02	2,601.22	5,869.55	2,624.52	2,076.91	3,222.96	25,355.15
Total 50000 · Cost of Goods Sold	4,162.77	5,127.75	3,518.81	5,208.95	4,986.86	9,281.76	4,951.98	4,751.51	5,278.28	47,268.67
Total COGS	4,162.77	5,127.75	3,518.81	5,208.95	4,986.86	9,281.76	4,951.98	4,751.51	5,278.28	47,268.67
Income Before Regular Expenses	16,259.26	39,577.83	22,146.99	20,562.52	21,789.89	27,063.70	25,962.53	36,013.83	31,693.43	241,069.98
Expense										
60000 · BOT										
60100 · BOT Accommodation	0.00	1,911.78	0.00	1,957.08	0.00	0.00	890.82	636.30	3,177.21	8,573.19
60200 · BOT Per Diem	462.00	0.00	0.00	1,452.00	528.00	0.00	528.00	1,386.00	0.00	4,356.00
60400 · BOT Travel	213.27	875.26	0.00	1,531.65	1,091.38	1,830.62	646.94	1,238.10	3,152.77	10,579.99
Total 60000 · BOT	675.27	2,787.04	0.00	4,940.73	1,619.38	1,830.62	2,065.76	3,260.40	6,329.98	23,509.18
61000 · BOT ABC/M										
61300 · BOT ABC/M Travel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	730.59	0.00	730.59
Total 61000 · BOT ABC/M	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	730.59	0.00	730.59
62000 · ABC/M Conference Expenses										
62200 · ABC/M Other	73.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	505.38	0.00	0.00	578.78
62400 · Conference Committee										
62408 · InterFellowship (CIFC)	0.00	0.00	0.00	222.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	222.94
62414 · Prison Outreach (CPOC)	14.14	20.04	9.78	10.56	0.00	43.89	15.29	14.87	20.23	148.80
Total 62400 · Conference Committee	14.14	20.04	9.78	233.50	0.00	43.89	15.29	14.87	20.23	371.74
Total 62000 · ABC/M Conference Expenses	87.54	20.04	9.78	233.50	0.00	43.89	520.67	14.87	20.23	950.52
62100* · Contract Services										
62110* · Accounting Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,421.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,421.90
62140 · Legal Fees	1,825.00	275.00	60.00	0.00	105.00	0.00	225.00	0.00	0.00	2,490.00
63300 · Webmaster Services	2,400.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	12,000.00
63400 · Contract Services - Labor	6,402.55	6,109.95	9,001.75	1,260.35	2,121.00	2,729.30	2,682.75	3,697.05	4,107.60	38,112.30
63500 · Contract Services - Other	1,926.00	2,767.85	2,731.55	1,907.00	4,594.01	1,904.00	2,911.00	3,048.35	5,034.25	26,824.01
Total 62100* · Contract Services	12,553.55	10,352.80	12,993.30	4,367.35	16,441.91	5,833.30	7,018.75	7,945.40	10,341.85	87,848.21
62800 · Facilities and Equipment										
64200 · Rent	2,941.36	2,941.36	2,941.36	2,916.34	2,916.34	2,916.34	2,916.34	2,916.34	2,916.34	26,322.12
64300 · Telephone	295.78	276.86	197.38	316.87	273.19	266.90	0.00	602.28	633.92	2,863.18
64400 · FWS Website	5.00	5.00	448.57	-100.90	289.91	266.20	472.80	136.98	49.98	1,573.54

	64500 · Equipment Leases	0.00	-466.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-466.77
	Total 62800 · Facilities and Equipment	3,242.14	2,756.45	3,587.31	3,132.31	3,479.44	3,449.44	3,389.14	3,655.60	3,600.24	30,292.07
	65000 · General Office Expense										
	65100 · Bank Charges/Fees	75.00	75.00	60.00	72.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	40.00	60.00	562.00
	65200 · Vendor Fees	543.93	635.82	1,175.89	648.73	624.66	709.76	794.47	896.79	1,164.82	7,194.87
	65300 · Dues, Fees and Licenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	125.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	225.00
	65400 · Federal and State Tax	1,013.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,013.04
	65500 · Insurance - Liability	0.00	0.00	0.00	700.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	700.00
	65700 · Gifts & Honorariums	125.00	0.00	325.00	60.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	139.75	133.54	783.29
	Total 65000 · General Office Expense	1,756.97	710.82	1,560.89	1,480.73	809.66	869.76	854.47	1,076.54	1,358.36	10,478.20
	65000* · Operations										
	65670 · Office Supplies	118.12	328.25	29.75	434.65	238.28	592.83	245.29	247.24	232.94	2,467.35
	65030 · Printing and Copying	0.00	50.50	0.00	0.00	49.10	0.00	0.00	29.29	0.00	128.89
	66100 · Computer Supplies	230.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	149.00	127.00	0.00	0.00	42.00	548.00
	66500 · Packaging and Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	65.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	146.17	211.17
	66600 · Postage, Mail Services	29.28	148.30	20.83	60.03	72.73	212.62	112.39	76.80	123.39	856.37
	66900 · FWS Outreach	296.00	0.00	0.00	49.70	55.77	189.38	11.30	22.79	40.59	665.53
	Total 65000* · Operations	673.40	527.05	50.58	544.38	629.88	1,121.83	368.98	376.12	585.09	4,877.31
	67000 · Payroll Expense										
	67300 · Payroll Accounting	0.00	0.00	0.00	75.20	75.20	75.20	75.20	76.80	78.40	456.00
	67400 · Payroll Tax Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	154.22	212.40	211.96	211.98	543.25	484.94	1,818.75
	67500 · Salary Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,016.00	2,052.00	2,048.00	2,048.00	2,817.24	5,252.94	16,234.18
	67600 · Unemployment Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	54.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	54.43
	67700 · Workman's Comp Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	214.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	71.00	285.00
	67000 · Payroll Expense - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	291.50	0.00	89.92	381.42
	Total 67000 · Payroll Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,513.85	2,339.60	2,335.16	2,626.68	3,437.29	5,977.20	19,229.78
	999999 · Suspense	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,125.75	-1,125.75	0.00
	Total Expense	18,988.87	17,154.20	18,201.86	17,212.85	25,319.87	15,484.00	16,844.45	21,622.56	27,087.20	177,915.86
	Net Ordinary Income	-2,729.61	22,423.63	3,945.13	3,349.67	-3,529.98	11,579.70	9,118.08	14,391.27	4,606.23	63,154.12
	Net Income	-2,729.61	22,423.63	3,945.13	3,349.67	-3,529.98	11,579.70	9,118.08	14,391.27	4,606.23	63,154.12

		Jun 30, 13
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
	10000 · BofA ABM/TEF-0426	7,500.00
	10100 · BofA Checking	75,839.59
	10401 · Vanguard Short-Term Fed Fund	157,966.10
	10900 · Petty Cash-Rita	168.84
	10901 · Petty Cash-Pamela	0.00
	10902 · Petty Cash-Joy	0.00
	10903 · Petty Cash-Lisa GM	194.19
	10904 · Petty Cash-Susan G	300.00
	Total Checking/Savings	241,968.72
Accounts Receivable		
	11200 · Accounts Receivable	-16.00
	Total Accounts Receivable	-16.00
Other Current Assets		
	12000 · Undeposited Funds	1,416.30
	12100 · Inventory Asset	53,849.43
	13000 · Prepaid Expenses	6,568.01
	Total Other Current Assets	61,833.74
	Total Current Assets	303,786.46
Fixed Assets		
	15000 · Buildings and Equipment	40,450.99
	17100 · Accum Depreciation	-34,150.00
	Total Fixed Assets	6,300.99
	TOTAL ASSETS	310,087.45
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		
	20100 · Accounts Payable	4,551.50
	Total Accounts Payable	4,551.50
Other Current Liabilities		
	25000 · Sales Tax Payable	112.43
	Total Other Current Liabilities	112.43
	Total Current Liabilities	4,663.93
	Total Liabilities	4,663.93
Equity		
	32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	242,049.43
	33000 · Unrealized Gain/Loss	-233.16
	Net Income	63,607.25
	Total Equity	305,423.52

	33000 · Unrealized Gain/Loss	-233.16
	Net Income	63,607.25
	Total Equity	305,423.52
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY		310,087.45

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CORNER

Conference Steps and Traditions Committee

ABUSIVE LANGUAGE AT MEETINGS

Q - There is a long time member of S.L.A.A. who very often uses very shaming and judgmental remarks regarding other members in S.L.A.A., e.g.,

« People have been in the program for years wallowing in their stuff and their miserable little lives, people crash and burn (that is, relapse) for the 50th time because they don't deal with their miserable lives, » or « I went to meeting where everyone shared, there were no dead bulbs. »

This has been a problem at a number of meetings in a certain area and several groups have dwindled down to a few members because such comments do not provide a safe and nonjudgmental environment. Other people still go to other meetings but get very upset by these comments and don't know what their rights are to make the meeting a safer place for everyone. What rights do group members have to deal with such shaming and disturbing comments at meetings that threaten recovery for the greatest number?

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 particular question is very similar to several others which we have discussed previously. There are several Traditions related here which I believe should be considered prior to the question regarding group conscience.

First, the group should consider Tradition 1 which says that personal recovery depends on S.L.A.A. unity. Unity is very important because it assures that everyone is on the same page and is of the same mind regarding the spiritual health of the meeting. In order for us to be successful in our recovery and achieve any sort of spirituality and sobriety, everyone needs to put aside personal differences, including being judgmental of others.

Another important consideration is found in 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." I find nowhere in this Tradition that complete sobriety is guaranteed or even offered. I know many in S.L.A.A. who, I believe, sincerely desire to stop acting out, but have constant relapses. Does this individual have a poor or unqualified sponsor who is not teaching them the way of sobriety or is this person incapable of living a pattern of sobriety? I often refer to a part of the reading of How It Works from the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous, where this was spoken very succinctly and clearly, « Rarely have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our path. Those who do not recover are people who cannot or will not completely give themselves to this simple program, usually men and women who are constitutionally incapable of being honest with themselves. There are such unfortunates. They are not at fault; they seem to have been born that way. They are naturally incapable of grasping and developing a manner of living which demands rigorous honesty. Their chances are less than average. There are those, too, who suffer from grave emotional and mental disorders, but many of them do recover if they have the capacity to be honest." (Alcoholics Anonymous, 3rd edition, Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., New York, NY. 1976) It was recognized many years ago in A.A. that we would always have some members who would continue to "fall off the wagon." Not only did they recognize it; they addressed it with this simple statement.

Now, going back to the part of the question regarding group conscience and what rights are found there. Tradition 2 states that, "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." Group conscience is where the resolution to this conflict needs to take place. The groups individually need to address this question very seriously and carefully. The group conscience decision is the final decision as to how this conflict may be resolved. The following section of this paragraph is an example of a situation which took place in my home group. In a similar circumstance, which was discussed very recently, a member shared judgmental remarks about some members of other area meetings to the extent that the members were recognizable to those in attendance. This bothered everyone in attendance. The following week; the entire meeting was taken up by a group conscience discussion to how to handle the situation. The offending member was not present, but the discussion would have still been held had he been in attendance. Everyone who had been in attendance spoke regarding their feelings regarding the comments and agreed that they were highly inappropriate and caused many to feel that they would not be able to freely share regarding their struggles or even slips. The decision of the group was that 2 or 3 members approach the offending member either before or after the next meeting and let him know the feelings of the group regarding his actions. The offending member was not someone who was new to S.L.A.A.; he has been in the rooms for over 20 years. The men approached him stating what had transpired at group conscience and he readily admitted having made the remarks (this was not the first time he had been approached about an issue; on past issues, he would deny what had occurred). The offending member apologized to those who approached him. It was suggested that he owed amends to those whose trust he violated. (The resolution to this problem was not shared as the question was presented.)

The health of the group as a whole and each individual member depends on the decisions made at group conscience. Each group needs to take what ever steps necessary to stop such behavior, short of putting the complaining member out of the group, without violating any of the Traditions, Steps or Concepts. The person who is doing the complaining may not even be aware that s/he is doing something which is inappropriate.

According to Steps 4 and 10, the only one who can take an inventory is the individual and not others. No where in any of the core documents of S.L.A.A. is anyone permitted to take the inventory of another member.

Finally, Tradition 12 reminds us "...to place principles before personalities." Some would maintain that the Traditions are applicable to only the groups; however, this is a principle to which the individual member needs to adhere. This is a very difficult Tradition to uphold due to the many personalities represented in each meeting. I personally stay away from people or meetings where I cannot practice this important Tradition because others may at times make me feel unsafe. In those times when I do have to be with someone who is judgmental or even threatening, I use all the tools available to me and do my best to ignore the statements made by such a person. I finally recognize that the person who is doing the most complaining about others has a great character defect which will eventually cause that person to fall.

Of the people I know who keep falling down, the important thing is that they get up, dust themselves off, admit what they did, and move forward. Some of these people have related to me, that in spite of their slips and falls, they are still better than when they came into the rooms of S.L.A.A. As long as they keep coming back, they have a chance and I have no right to judge them or their sincerity. I hope those who left the meetings in the area where the questioner lives, have found a place of peace, serenity, and acceptance so that they can continue their recovery. Perhaps some of these comments will be helpful when the groups in that area finally decide to address the problem. If the inquirer would like to look another approach, I would suggest downloading the Conference Service Manual (CSM) Appendix from the F.W.S. website and look at Appendix H on Conflict Resolution to see if it could be adapted in this situation.

This situation, for me, is similar to others for which the CSTC has already provided answers. Hence, I would recommend looking at input provided for topics such as *Controlling and Disruptive Members* (2013).

So, to focus strictly on abusive language, I would consider Tradition 1 a priority, "Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends

As I think that we cannot exclude someone for undesirable behaviour (as the desire to recover is the basis of S.L.A.A. membership -Tradition 3), groups should consider that in order to recover, you need a proper environment to receive the message. Hence, it should consider unity above individual recovery. If members keep not coming back, or leave to a point where the group might fold, something has to be done. Tradition 5 does say that the primary purpose of each group is to carry the message to the suffering sex and love addict, the message of recovery. The group's purpose should consider it is not its responsibility to protect abusers of anykind, verbal or other types.

I would support the suggestion of a group inventory to do so and that members make decisions together on how to address such issues. Raise the subject of discomfort and threat to the meeting and do a round robin on it. In my experience, I have seen that inventories look to see how well a group carries the message, retains its members, what are problems that need attention. Solutions provided could include to modify the meeting format's wording to request respectful language and behaviour, and allow members to ask for the Chair's intervention if needed to call for order. Who knows, not to be blindly optimistic, even abusive members might realize things. Or maybe not. It's worth trying. The key here is group conscience.

Outside of the Traditions, I could suggest asking to the Conference Literature Committee what happened with the draft of the pamphlet *Triggers as a Resource*. The initial proposed title was : *Triggering Language and Behavior in Meetings*. I went through it and it did provide solution venues. Maybe some kind of literature on the topic is being rewritten.

Personally, in exploring how I get triggered in meetings, I would probably go through a Step 4 and and reflect on how I am triggered. Is it fear that I cannot confront abuse, that I want to run away or negate it? From there, can I try to find options and resources to address the situation in order to be safe. Plus, I could ask myself : "Are there other people triggered?" If so, should we discuss it as a group? And so on. We are not alone.

One idea is to possibly schedule a group inventory meeting and let members suggest items for the agenda. The above thoughts and questions could be listed as one of the items for the agenda, but not the only one. Perhaps an open and frank discussion without judgment would result in all members following the principles of the Steps and Traditions, without making rules or taking any non-voluntary actions.

SPECIAL INTERESTS GROUPS

Q. Someone was told she couldn't host a women's only event because it violated the Traditions. Can you help?

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This question brings up several possibilities of answers, so I will follow what seems right to me. I personally, do not see a violation of Tradition 3, which I believe was the response originally given to the original inquirer by someone at a meeting. This is because this would not be a restriction made to deny a woman the opportunity to receive recovery at a meeting in which she could feel comfortable.

A gender specific meeting would be supported by Tradition 4 which says "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or S.L.A.A. as a whole." This tradition allows each group to set its own focus and format as to the type of meeting which they are going to conduct. We already have women's only meetings in many areas and also have women's phone meetings. We also have meetings which are limited to men only and to those of certain sexual orientation or gender identity. This is

because some members would feel unsafe or possibly even triggered should they be in a mixed meeting. The same holds true in some areas where those who are convicted sex offenders have felt the need to establish a new meeting due to members having been judgmental toward them and making them feel unwelcome.

A gender specific meeting still supports Tradition 5 which says, "Each group has but one primary purpose - to carry the message to the sex and love addict who still suffers." Here this allows everyone to recover in a place where they can feel safe. This would also be true for the anorectics who cannot identify with those who had a version of sex and love addiction which involved others. I prefer to look beyond our differences and allow everyone an equal opportunity to recover. I was made to feel welcome in spite of one of the manifestations of sexual addiction in my life and feel compelled to offer to others the same welcome and opportunity.

I am aware that in some areas certain members have been made to feel uncomfortable or unwelcome due to the nature of their addiction and they have begun specific meetings limited to those who have had the same experiences. Personally, I welcome every sex and love addict, regardless of the manifestation of their disease, and anorectic to a meeting because I believe that we are all there for the mutual purpose of recovery from our sex and love addiction.

I do not believe that special interest groups are a violation of Tradition 3. We are all addicts and it might be difficult for certain, at the beginning of recovery, most likely or because of certain traumatic, past experiences, to be confronted to the situations or people who have triggered them. Tradition 4 allows groups to be autonomous and I don't see that the creation of such groups hurts the fellowship as a whole.

The Basic Text does refer to special interest groups on pages 131-132 (of the 1986 edition). At the time of the writing of the book, nine years after the beginning of the fellowship, there seemed to not have been many requests for such groups. The authors also suggest that recovering addicts need to eventually learn to deal with the attraction created by the addiction where ever is being triggered. However, I did not read anything that would suggest not allowing such groups.

I believe, the important thing for S.L.A.A. is to carry the message, according to Tradition 5. I can also understand that similarities of experiences might support recovery in a way mixed groups cannot provide at one point. Hence, if creating a special group is the way to do it, it might be considered an appropriate way.

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.

ADOLESCENTS IN MEETINGS

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Encouraging adolescent sex addicts, love addicts, and sex and love addicts to attend S.L.A.A. meetings could pose a threat both to them and to others in meetings. While our Third Tradition presently permits them membership in our fellowship, it is imperative that we examine the possible risks involved in their attendance at meetings and their becoming members of our fellowship.

Addressing and meeting their needs certainly is of great importance for many reasons. The question is how best to do this without it conflicting with the needs of others or putting them at risk.

It is important that each group be fully aware of the issues involved in this matter and the potential risks to all concerned. Hopefully, by clarifying these issues, individual groups and individual members will be better equipped to make decisions regarding this serious matter.

This is an extremely difficult and complex problem. It strikes at the very core of our Traditions. There are no easy answers. There is no "perfect" solution.

SOME OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED AND SOME SUGGESTIONS

- Ephebophilic S.L.A.A. members (those whose primary or exclusive sexual and/or romantic turn-on is post-pubescent adolescents who are often under the age of legal consent) may be triggered by the presence of teenagers in meetings. While many S.L.A.A. members have to deal with various erotic cues in meetings and risk being overcome by them and acting out, usually this does not involve serious infractions of the law with possible extreme negative consequences for one or more of those affected. Neither does it put other non-involved members at risk. Ephebophiles, however, run a special risk.
- If an adult member engages in sex with an underage member they have met at a meeting, he or she could end up going to prison. The resulting media attention could reflect very badly on the fellowship as a whole. ("Hey, look at those S.L.A.A. sex freaks! They get together in churches and other places to talk about sex and then go out and prey on children who attend their meetings.")
- A youthful member might end up being re-traumatized by an adult member. It is known that problematic out-of-control sexual behavior may be the result of trauma resulting from sexual child abuse. There is a danger that the teenager who is seeking help to deal with their sexual compulsivity or dependence on romantic attachments could be re-

victimized as a direct result of coming to S.L.A.A.

- While "Thirteenth Stepping" goes on in 12 Step fellowships, it usually involves consenting adults and is not illegal. Furthermore, although the newcomer who is being thirteenth stepped may be traumatized and may be turned off from the fellowship by an older member who preys on vulnerable new members, he or she, as an adult, is more likely to handle those feelings in an adult manner while a child is less likely to be able to do so.
- Even if the ephebophilic S.L.A.A. member does not act out with one of the underage attendees in the meeting, but instead leaves the meeting after being triggered and goes and acts out with another underage child, the consequences they could suffer would be the same as those they would face as a result of having acted out with a youth from the meeting. Their conduct could still reflect in a negative manner on the fellowship were a connection made between their membership in S.L.A.A. and their illegal conduct.
- This matter does not affect just ephebophiles. Many adult sex and love addicts may get turned on by young nubile sex objects even if their primary erotic preference is adults. If they act on those feelings and urges the horrendous possible consequences to them would be the same as for those for whom youth is a preference.
- Some of our members are convicted sex offenders. They may be forbidden by the conditions of their sentence or parole to have anything to do with underage children. What are they to do? If they arrive late at a meeting and see someone who MIGHT be underage, are they to interrupt the meeting to ask the other person's age? Must they leave the meeting simply because they are afraid that the other individual MIGHT be underage? What if the young person appears to be much older and therefore the convicted sex offender member fails to recognize them as a threat that could endanger his or her freedom were he or she to be arrested for interacting with them?

- Are we serious about what we claim in the First Step? Do we believe that we are truly powerless over our addiction? If so, how can we expect members to suddenly be able to control their urges? Not only can we expect many adults to be unable to control their erotic cravings but what about the kids? Generally speaking, adolescents are considered to be less capable than adults of controlling their behavior in all areas of their lives. Many non- sex and love addicted teenagers are by nature sexually and romantically obsessed. It is part of their developmental process. Imagine those who are sexually or romantically addicted as well as being adolescents with impulse control problems. We can expect them to act out sexually - even to the point of being the aggressor. They could well be capable of attempting to seduce adults in a meeting or afterwards.
- In many jurisdictions, if a sex addict who is attending S.L.A.A. meetings is suspected of sexual child abuse and the authorities get wind of the fact that underage "sex and love addicts" are attending the same meeting that the suspect attends, detectives may query all meeting attendees and demand that they disclose everything said and done in the meeting. If they refuse, they can be subpoenaed into court and forced to testify or else be found in contempt of court and sent to jail. This is not just an insane paranoid fantasy, it is fact.
- Even if those who were present at a given meeting where children were present choose to cooperate with the police, they are still vulnerable to having investigators show up at their homes and jobs. This could make for a very uncomfortable situation - or worse.
- If a high-profile sexual child abuse case involving S.L.A.A. were to be sensationalized by the media, this might frighten away prospective members who consequently would not receive the benefits of S.L.A.A. membership. It could also make it difficult for groups to find and keep a place to meet. People might understandably be reluctant to allow S.L.A.A. groups to hold meetings on their premises. It might also precipitate very uncomfortable scrutiny on the part of law enforcement regarding S.L.A.A. as a whole, individual S.L.A.A. groups, and individual S.L.A.A. members.
- Youthful sex offenders may wish to attend meetings. Those in charge of their treatment and rehabilitation may want to bus them to S.L.A.A. meetings so that they can get a taste of the resources available to them once they leave treatment. It is possible that those treatment providers may not be aware of the ramifications of doing so.
- While I believe that dealing with their response to triggers is the responsibility of each individual member and not the group, if incarcerated youthful sex offenders attend an outside S.L.A.A. meeting, it could trigger abuse issues in those members who have been victims of sex offenders. This would be doubly true if the youths were perceived not to be truly repentant and trying to change but merely attempting to win "brownie points" by attending an outside meeting. This has happened in the past.
- There are pros and cons involved in allowing underage adolescents to attend meetings with adults. While there are definitely benefits to be gained from mixing the two groups there are also serious dangers in doing so. The dangers may well outweigh the benefits. That is, for individual groups and S.L.A.A. as a whole to decide.
- If adolescents are prohibited from attending meetings with adults, how are they to benefit from the experience of the seasoned older members in recovery? Were they to be allowed to meet only with members of their own age group it would create a situation of "the blind leading the blind."
- The prohibition of young sex and love addicts would likewise deprive adult members of a valuable resource. Years ago, I was asked to facilitate an institutional S.L.A.A. meeting with youthful sex offenders at a local psychiatric hospital. They ranged in age from 12 to 18. I don't know if I was able to help any of them, but the experience sure helped me. Being with them took me back to my teenage

years. Although I was never a youthful sex offender myself, I was able to relate to many of their feelings and it helped me work through a number of my childhood issues. It probably saved me thousands of dollars in therapy.

- We live in a country that has a patchwork quilt of laws. Not only do laws vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction but the level of enforcement of those laws can likewise vary. S.L.A.A. is an international fellowship. What about countries where the legal age of consent may be fifteen? Are fifteen-year-olds to be barred from meetings where they can legally interact sexually with older members? (There are many S.L.A.A. meetings in countries where the legal age of consent is lower than 15 years.)
- It is prudent that we immediately look at existing situations where adolescents under the age of legal consent are attending S.L.A.A. meetings. What can be done to help and protect them now as well as safeguard adult members who attend the same meetings?
- What would happen to the Third Tradition if underage members were to be forbidden from becoming S.L.A.A. members and attending meetings? Would we have to rewrite it? Would that be starting us down a slippery slope to where we could deny membership to anyone we might perceive as a threat or whom we might consider "undesirable?"
- One important question is how the Fourth Tradition applies in these matters. Is this an instance where the decisions made (or not made) by one group could affect other groups or S.L.A.A. as a whole? If so, how much? Does it warrant infringing on the autonomy of individual groups? Traditionally, a Twelve Step fellowship has no way of enforcing its decisions on its members. What significance does that have in this case? For that matter, how binding would a decision made at a fellowship wide level be on individuals or individual groups?
- If individual groups or the fellowship as a whole decide to prohibit adolescents who are under the age of consent from attending

meetings, how is this prohibition to be enforced? Is there to be an ID check performed at the door? That would violate the anonymity of members. What about online meetings and phone meetings? Would all participants be required to submit their scanned IDs by email to the chairperson or secretary of the group or to an intergroup before being allowed to attend a meeting?

- We should consider the possible creation of an inter-fellowship committee to discuss the issues of protecting and helping youths who are seeking help while safeguarding the adult members of the fellowships and the fellowships themselves. This is a case of where decisions made in one fellowship could affect other fellowships as well. A scandal in one fellowship could adversely affect other fellowships and the sex addiction movement in general. The spirit and principle of Tradition Four applies in this case.

THINGS TO DO

1. Before encouraging underage sex and love addicts to attend meetings and become S.L.A.A. members, we should first examine this issue in depth and make decisions that will both help and protect them while at the same time safeguard adult members of S.L.A.A. and our fellowship as a whole. This is an issue that needs to be addressed both by our trusted servants and by the entire membership of our fellowship. It affects us all.
2. Get competent legal advice regarding these matters from an attorney or attorneys who specialize in sexual child abuse cases. It wouldn't hurt to ask judges and prosecutors for their input as well. Law enforcement officers who investigate sexual child abuse cases could be a valuable resource. Likewise, those who specialize in treating youthful sex offenders might be able to offer valuable suggestions.
3. Prior to seeking legal advice, outline the problem and the issues involved and put together a list of questions to ask the legal experts.
4. We should query all the other "S" fellowships regarding their experience and decisions concerning these issues and what legal advice they have obtained and from whom. It would be helpful to find out not

just the decisions they have made but also what suggestions came up in discussion of these matters and what was decided regarding those suggestions and why.

5. It is especially important to focus on how we can serve and protect these youthful sex and love addicts, not just how we can protect adult S.L.A.A. members.

6. We should share our experience and decisions with the other "S" fellowships. This is in keeping with the spirit of Tradition Five. We would be carrying our message of help to other sex and love addicts, regardless of the fellowship with which they are affiliated.

Perhaps you have additional ideas regarding these matters and the issues involved. You may be aware of issues that I have not mentioned. The more input we get the better.

We should welcome suggestions regarding how we can best help our youthful brother and sister addicts without in the process jeopardizing them or ourselves or the Fellowship of Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous.

Please be assured that I am not being an alarmist. I have given this situation considerable thought before writing this email.

Thanks to the Grace of my Higher Power and the members of S.L.A.A., I have maintained uninterrupted abstinence from my bottom line addictive behaviors for more than 25 years. I also have over 38 years of sobriety in A.A. In November of 1985 I was a co-founder of the first S.L.A.A. group in South Florida. I was involved in the creation of the first S.L.A.A. intergroup here and later served for two years as the chairman of another intergroup. While I have not participated in service at the fellowship wide level, I, nevertheless, am concerned about our fellowship and its direction. I owe my life to S.L.A.A.

I realize that the frightening scenarios I have mentioned may not come to pass. However, just because we have been lucky up to this point does not mean that we will continue to be so fortunate. Due to the climate in our country regarding sexual child abuse, can we afford to simply stick our heads in the sand and hope for the best?

Please feel free to contact me by phone or email to exchange ideas.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

If you would like to contact Tim, please send a request for his contact information to:

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

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MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
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TO COOPERATE IN ADDRESSING
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