



Fellowship-Wide Services Newsletter

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Welcome to the Fall 2014 Issue of the Fellowship-Wide Services Newsletter!

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Board of Trustees (BOT) Outgoing Chair's Report 2013-2014

This has been a busy conference year for the Board of Trustees. We started the year after losing one of our most seasoned members, Rita H., who rotated off the Board after almost six years of service, and we've sorely missed her. Nevertheless, we picked up the ball and ran with it. We stumbled a bit when we almost immediately lost another seasoned member, Tom F., due to his busy work schedule. This left us 5 members doing the work of a 9-member Board. We gained the service of three more members of the Board at last year's ABM, but two of them were not able to stay with us long for various unforeseen reasons. Most recently, we have been fortunate to have Chris D. join us on the Board. Many of you may remember Chris, as he has been in the program over 20 years and has previously served on the BOT. We are now back up to 5 members on the Board, however, this number of

Board members is a skeleton crew, and we are in need of members who desire to be of service. This Fellowship is truly blessed to have the dedication and perseverance of those that are serving at this level. The work, time and sacrifice are unparalleled.

The following are the highlights of the Boards activities during this conference year.

Board Membership

(With year term is ending and position(s) held during this conference year)

Susan G.	2014	(President, BFOC Finance/Operations Member)
Steve B.	2015	(Treasurer, BFOC Finance Chair)
Rick B.	2014	(Corporate Secretary, BGNC chair, BPRC Chair)
Bob G.	2016	(BFOC Operations Chair)
Chris D.	2014	Appointed

The Board meets monthly for a 3-hour Regular Meeting every two months, and a 2-hour Interim Meeting on the off months. This schedule was adhered to for the entire conference year with short notice, 1-hour calls added from time to time as needed. Each Board member also serves on Board Committees, subcommittees, and taskforces in addition to agreeing to be a liaison to (as many as 5) Conference committees.

Highlights of Board Activities and Office Activities

The FWS Office was dismayed to learn shortly after the ABM last year we were to suffer the loss of the new General Manager Lisa McGrath due to her father's failing health. Fortunately, the Board was able to immediately find a replacement for her in the very wonderful Pam Martin! Many of you may have already met Pam who has been with us almost a year now. She has been a real blessing to this Fellowship.

I am so proud of our F.W.S. staff, Webmaster Beth S., and General Manager Pam Martin, who have both put in so much time, effort and research on several technological projects we have gotten off the ground this year, which I will now tell you about.

This has been a momentous year because we have finally gotten our eBook off the ground! The Board put together a taskforce to hammer out the details. It was not as hard as we thought it would be! It is for sale on Amazon and iBooks for \$9.99 and has already been a huge success. Be sure to get your copy! There is a link in our Store on the F.W.S. website as well.

This year we also did a Membership Survey. While only slightly over 400 people responded, out of what we think are around 16, 000 of us, it is a beginning. We hope to have better results in the future when we repeat the survey. Be proud of the fact that there are 554 registered Groups. Of those, 230 are Lone Groups, and 324 Groups belong to an Intergroup. We have 25 Telephone Groups and 14 Online Groups. There are 73 registered Intergroups, and we have groups in 43 Countries, probably more. We recently learned that an S.L.A.A. group exists in Bali as well and we are trying to get in contact with them as we speak.

This year we also launched the eJournal, which has already proved to be popular as many people enjoy being able to read the Journal on their Kindle and iPads. This year we also began to carry back issues of the Journal as voice

recorded MP3s which you can listen to in your car while you drive! We also released a Sponsorship Tele-series on MP3. We are also very pleased to announce that we have put the Basic Text on MP3, broken down into chapters (which was no small feat!). Lastly, we've updated our C.D.s so that we've noted our best sellers, and we now have detailed descriptions of all of the shares so that you can have a bit of an idea of what they are about before you buy them. Again kudos to our staff who spent countless hours making all of this happen! As you can imagine with all this new technology and new products, there has been an increase in sales, so we know we are on the right track, providing you with tools for recovery in formats that you enjoy.

We have been busy archiving the full ABM Minutes all the way back to 1984 and plan to post them on the Website soon. In an effort to keep you all in the loop, we have also posted the past two years of BOT minutes on Website this Conference year. And finally, we hope you have had time to look over the BOT Strategic Plan that we posted on the Website, as this is the vision that we will be striving for in order to be more focused and strategic in being the best trusted servants we can be. The Officers who were elected to serve you during the 2014-2015 Conference year are as follows:

Steve B. – Board Chair, President
Bob G. – Finance Chair, Treasurer
Susan G. - Secretary

Respectfully submitted,
Susan G., Board of Trustees, Outgoing BOT Chair

Report from the Incoming Board Chair August, 2014

My name is Steve B., and I am a sex and love addict. My home group is the Wednesday Night Meeting in Plantation, Florida.

I write this report after returning home from the Annual Business Meeting/Conference (ABM) which was held August 5th through 8th in Houston, Texas. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate everyone, both volunteers 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 outgoing Board Chair, Pam Martin, our General Manager, Elizabeth P., the Local Planning Chair, Jack S., the Conference Charter Committee Chair, and especially the entire Houston Intergroup for being such wonderful hosts.

Susan G., our outgoing Board Chair, decided to not stand for Board Chair this conference year and I have been elected to serve in that position for the upcoming conference year. I want to express my personal gratitude to Susan for her leadership and friendship over the past year. I hope that I will be able to serve as the Board Chair with half the diligence and competence exhibited by her. As supervisor of the office, she has done an excellent job and as the Chair of the Board of Trustees we saw things completed that have been a long time in coming, including the creation of a Basic Text EBook and an electronic version of *the Journal*.

The current membership of the Board includes Susan G. from California, Rick B. from Florida, Bob G. from Massachusetts, Chris D. from California and myself. At the ABM, the three officers were elected with myself serving as President, Bob G. as Treasurer and Susan G. as our Secretary.

A motion amending the By-Laws and presented by the Board of Trustees (BOT) was passed which allows the Board to structure its committees as it finds to be most appropriate, no longer requiring that there must be the three traditional committees (Finance and Operating, Governance and Nominating and Public Relations). The new By-Law does mandate the existence of a Finance Committee, recognizing the crucial nature of contemporaneous monitoring of F.W.S. Finances.

Because the Board was not assured of the passage of this Motion, a decision regarding the appropriate committee structure has not been made and will be the first order of business for this conference year. A chair for the Finance Committee was elected and that role will be assumed by Bob. G.

I am grateful for this opportunity to serve the Fellowship in this new role and humbled by duties that lie ahead. It is my intention to serve with transparency and accountability and to always remember that our primary purpose is, above all, to serve the sex and love addict who still suffers.

Please feel free to contact me at <http://www.slaafws.org/contact/SB>

Steve B.
Chair, Board of Trustees

General Manager's Report August 7, 2014

It has been a typical hot South Texas summer at the F.W.S. Office. While the afternoon temperatures have soared to over 100 degrees, evenings have been a "balmy-by-our-standards" 90 degrees!

The F.W.S. Office shipped 406 orders in May, June, and July! We have been happy to see that our digital items, such as MP3s, e-book and e-*Journal* subscriptions, continue to gain popularity among our members. These items are especially great for our international customers, who can save on both shipping expense and delivery time. Stop by the S.L.A.A. web store and take a look at the new digital items!

Speaking of the e-*Journal*, it is now a reality! We were thrilled to get this project up and running after many months of planning and testing. Subscribers who choose the digital edition of *the Journal* are able to save 20%, so do check it out at <http://www.slaafws.org/thejournal>.

As I write this report for our newsletter, I am sitting in my hotel room at the 2014 ABC/M in beautiful Houston, Texas. While the past few weeks have been a busy whirlwind for the F.W.S. staff, it has been so very gratifying to see it all come together "here on the ground" at ABM. And I am really enjoying "putting faces with names" as I meet our delegates, observers, and volunteers.

Hope you are enjoying the summer, wherever you may be!
Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Martin
General Manager

Board Finance and Operating Committee - Finance
August 2014 Outgoing Treasurer's Report

This will be my last report on F.W.S. finances. I have, after three years as your Treasurer, rotated out of that position and Bob G., who served as the Chair of BFOC-Operations last year, will now serve as the Board Finance Committee Chair and the Fellowship-Wide Services Treasurer. I look forward to Bob's service in this position for which he is well qualified as an accounting professional and a dedicated trusted servant. The Conference approved a Board Motion at the ABM creating the Finance Committee as a permanent, stand-alone Committee charged with overseeing the F.W.S. Finances.

Our Financial Statements through June have been reviewed by the Committee and show F.W.S. Finances to be solid as we began taking in funds from delegate registrations for the ABM. As of June 30th, the end of our fiscal-year third quarter, we have received almost \$109,000.00 in donations, which would be around the same level as the prior three years, except for an additional anonymous donation to the Prudent Reserve Fund of \$25,000.00 that was mentioned in my last report. Other good news includes the fact we have had an increase in net proceeds from store sales of around \$15,000.00 above the prior two years. That is not to say, however that money isn't still tight as we have added salary expenses, including that of the General Manager.

Included in this Newsletter are the slides that accompanied the Finance Presentation to the Conference at the ABM this year. I will miss performing that function at ABMs in the future and am always impressed at the level of attention and astute interest shown by the delegates in F.W.S. Finances. It is my hope that you have found that the Board of Trustees has been a transparent and satisfactory steward of your money during my tenure as your Treasurer and Finance Chair.

In reviewing the slides from the Finance Presentation, there are a couple of points I would like to make. First, they describe what is, in reality, the "consolidated" books of the two co-existing corporations, the old Massachusetts Corporation and the new Texas Corporation. The process of winding down and dissolving the Massachusetts entity continues as we await the Massachusetts Attorney General's review of the Petition for Dissolution. After approval by the Massachusetts Attorney General, it is then considered by the Supreme Judicial Court. Although this process is not proceeding as quickly as we may like, we have been painstaking with our legal and financial reporting obligations under Massachusetts law and I am confident of a positive result.

Second, in reviewing the cash on hand as of June 30th, it is important to remember that such numbers include all of the monies taken in as registrations for the ABM. Thus the approximately \$113, 000.00 shown in our operating accounts include \$45-50,000.00 in funds that are spent on the ABM.

Throughout the conference year, the BFOC-Finance Committee met monthly and carefully reviewed the F.W.S. Financial Reports. They also dealt with financial issues such as the budget, Internal Revenue Service filings and the financial audit. Other financial issues and copyright matters were part of the Committee's responsibility. A project which has been started and will continue into the new conference year is creating and implementing safeguards that allow many financial responsibilities to be restored to F.W.S. office now we have found a reliable General Manager.

I am extremely thankful to the members of the Committee last conference year. I want to take this opportunity to thank Tom R. from Massachusetts, an attorney, and Rich K. from Massachusetts, an accountant, for their service as non-Board members on the Committee. I am also indebted to the two other Board Members on the Committee, Susan G. and Bob G., who took time from their own demanding service positions

to serve on the Committee. Last but not least, my thanks to Pam Martin, our diligent General Manager, who took over the responsibilities of the record keeper and kept us apprised of the activities in the office.

Most of all, I would like to thank this Fellowship for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your Treasurer for the preceding three years. It has been a wonderful opportunity for me to learn, give back for what has been freely given me, and work with so many terrific trusted servants and staff.

As always, feel free to contact me with questions or comments at <http://www.slaafws.org/contact/SB>.

Steve B.
Former BFOC-Finance Chair and Treasurer
Chair, Board of Trustees

To access the Treasurer’s PowerPoint presentation (includes balance, assets, etc.) presented at the 2014 ABM, click on this hyperlink:
<http://www.slaafws.org/Conference/ABM2014/Treasurers2014ABMReportNewsletter.pptx> (5MB)

Summary of Business Meeting Items Decisions for 2014 ABM

# of the Motion/IFD	Motion or IFD	Result of the Vote	Pass/Fail
14o01/13-01	Motion: For the time of the year the ABM is held to be changed to outside of school holidays and the main holiday season.	7-30-3	Failed
14o02/13-07	Motion: To change the By-Laws in Article VI - Board of Trustees: Section 13 - be amended so that instead of a Board Finance and Operating Committee there be a Finance Committee consisting of at least two members of the Board of Trustees and other persons as designated by the Board. The Board Finance Committee shall have responsibility for preparing the financial statements and recommending appropriate accounting practices by the Board of Trustees. Section 14 , requiring a Board Governance and Nominating Committee and Section 15 , requiring a Board Public Relations Committee be stricken from the By-Laws. Sections 16 – Reimbursement of Trustees, and Section 17 — Finances, are renumbered to Section 14 and Section 15, respectively.	36-1-3	Passed
14o03/13-09	Motion: Increase the annual contribution limitation from \$12,000 to \$20,000.	23-13-4 16-18-6	Passed

		25-13-2	
14n04/14-01	<p>Item For Discussion: The CCC is seeking guidance from the Conference on establishing effective deadlines for submissions of IFDs and Motions to go on the ABM Agenda that not only helps the submitter, but also gives Delegates and Conference Committees time to review these items.</p>	IFD	See minutes for summary of discussion
14n05/14-02	<p>Motion: That the Conference decides to make the "Twelve Concepts for World Service of S.L.A.A." a Core Document of the Fellowship.</p>	33-0-5	Passed
14n06/14-03	<p>Item For Discussion: Submitter wishes for the Conference to discuss the possibility of a no-tolerance policy for using the program of S.L.A.A. as an arena to assault, sexually assault or stalk other members, at meetings or between meetings, and how such a policy could be formulated.</p>	IFD	See minutes for summary of discussion
14n07/14-04	<p>Item For Discussion: The Conference Diversity Committee wants feedback from the Conference on the proposed Diversity Statement.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE DIVERSITY STATEMENT</p> <p>The First Tradition of Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous speaks of the importance of unity. There is unity in diversity. We have different beliefs, affiliations and backgrounds, but we are one Fellowship. We find a common denominator in our obsessive/compulsive patterns. This is a core principle of our program of recovery. We are stronger together than we are alone. Love and tolerance are our watchwords. Every sex and love addict and anorectic is welcome to attend an S.L.A.A. Meeting so that they may experience sustained, self-defined recovery in a supportive environment. Together we affirm S.L.A.A. diversity as a source of our daily strength that invites ever greater outreach, perspective, healing, relatedness and unity.</p>	IFD	See minutes for summary of discussion
14n08/14-05	<p>Item For Discussion: The CICC be tasked with the stewardship of a master list of Intergroups / Lone groups, and the CICC be steward of a master list of all Conference committees' contact information, whether it be through the F.W.S. (except U.S. mail), email address, Google group, an Information phone number, or other means.</p>	IFD	See minutes for summary of discussion
14n09/14-06	<p>Item For Discussion: A Conference Literature Committee Representative selected by the CLC, be sent to the ABM every year, with the F.W.S. paying the costs.</p>	IFD	See minutes for summary of discussion

Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous Membership Survey Report 2013-2014

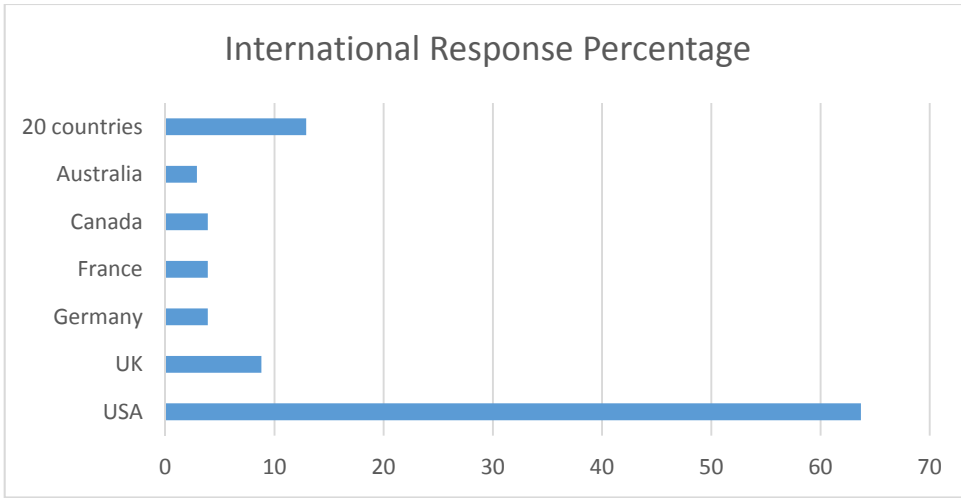
With a commitment to get information about our Fellowship, its members, and what resources have been helpful/useful or not, the Board Public Relations Committee developed a brief survey, which was implemented in the Fall/Winter of 2013-14. This is a report of the survey results.

It is important to understand that the results may not be generalizable to the Fellowship as a whole. To assist readers in understanding the results of this survey and to put the results in perspective and how much the answers reflect the general membership as a whole, it is important to note there are 554 registered Groups in 43 countries. Of those, 230 are Lone Groups and 324 are Intergroup members. There are 73 registered Intergroups. We have 25 Telephone Groups and 14 Online Groups. Respondents from this survey were from 26 countries and almost half from the USA. Although the results may not be generalizable, it does contain important information about our resources, our membership, and our Fellowship. It is encouraged that those in service, whether it be at the local level, the intergroup level, the conference committee level, or the BOT level, review the results and if there is something in this report that a committee believes they can improve, it is our job to work collectively to continue to reach out to the still suffering sex and love addict.

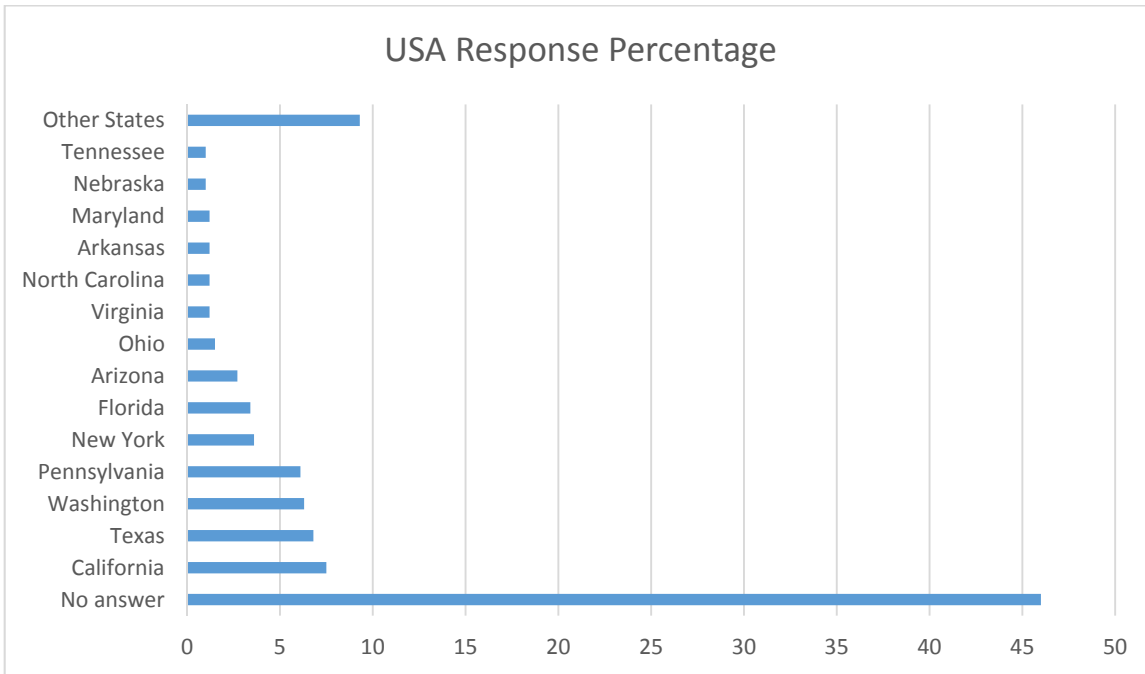
DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

NUMBER AND LOCATION OF RESPONDENTS

Four hundred eleven members filled out the survey. Of the four hundred and eleven, most of the members were from the USA (63.7%), 8.8% were from the UK, 3.9% from Germany, 3.9% from France, 3.9% from Canada, and 2.9% from Australia. Also participating in the survey were members from New Zealand, Netherlands, Switzerland, Greece, Norway, Iceland, Austria, Denmark. South Africa, Colombia, China, Cuba, Belgium, Singapore, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Honduras, Indonesia, Thailand, and U.S. Minor Outlying Islands.

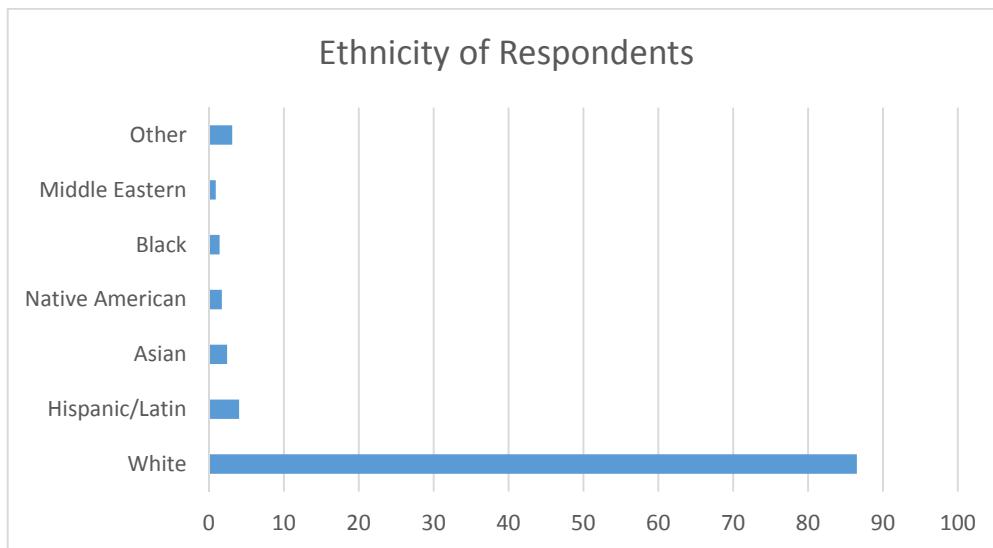


Almost half of the survey participants did not indicate from which US state in which they reside (46%). However, 7.5% hailed from California, 6.8% from Texas, 6.3% from Washington, 6.1% from Pennsylvania, 3.6% from New York, 3.4% from Florida, 2.7% from Arizona, 1.5% from Ohio, 1.2% from Virginia, 1.2% from North Carolina, 1.2% from Arkansas, 1.2% from Maryland, 1% from Nebraska, and 1% from Tennessee. Other states represented in the survey were: New Jersey, Michigan, Missouri, Colorado, Illinois, Idaho, Oklahoma, Oregon, Vermont, Connecticut, West Virginia, Rhode Island, Georgia, Utah, Louisiana, New Mexico, Wisconsin, and South Carolina.



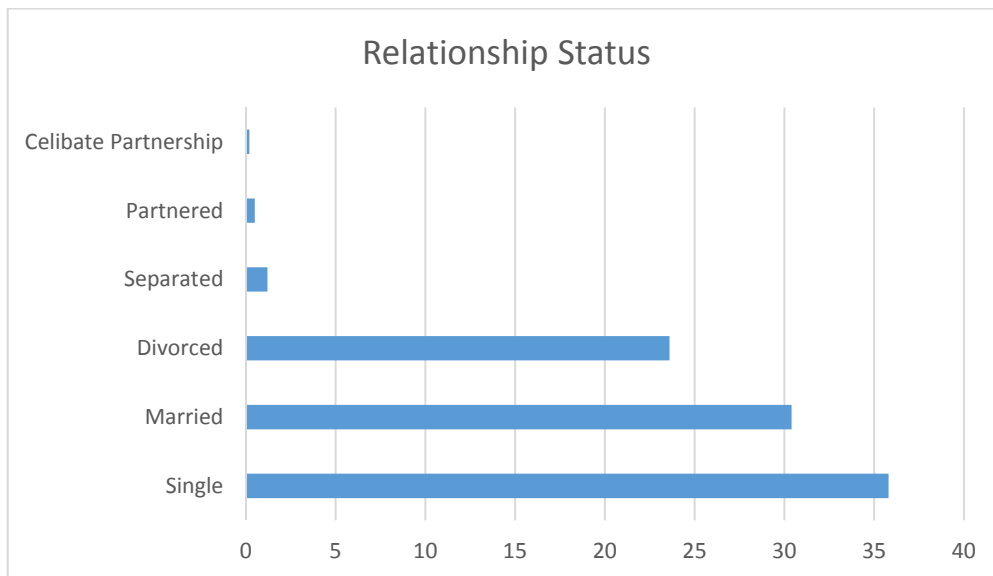
ETHNICITY

Of the respondents, 86.5% identified as White, 4% as Hispanic/Latin, 2.4% as Asian, 1.7% as Native American, 1.4% as Black, 0.9% as Middle Eastern, and the rest as "Other."



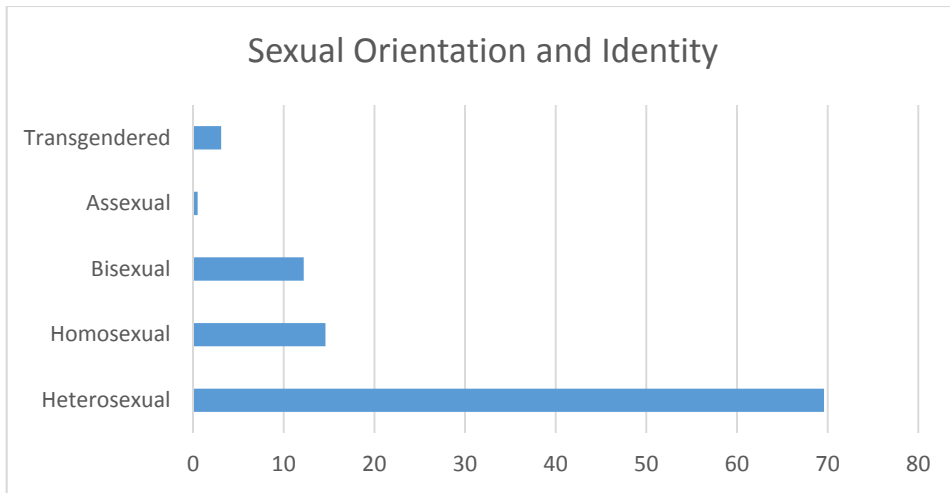
RELATIONSHIP STATUS

In the survey, 35.8% identified as being single, 30.4% as being married, 23.6% as divorced, 1.2% as separated, 0.5% as partnered, and 0.2% as in a celibate partnership.



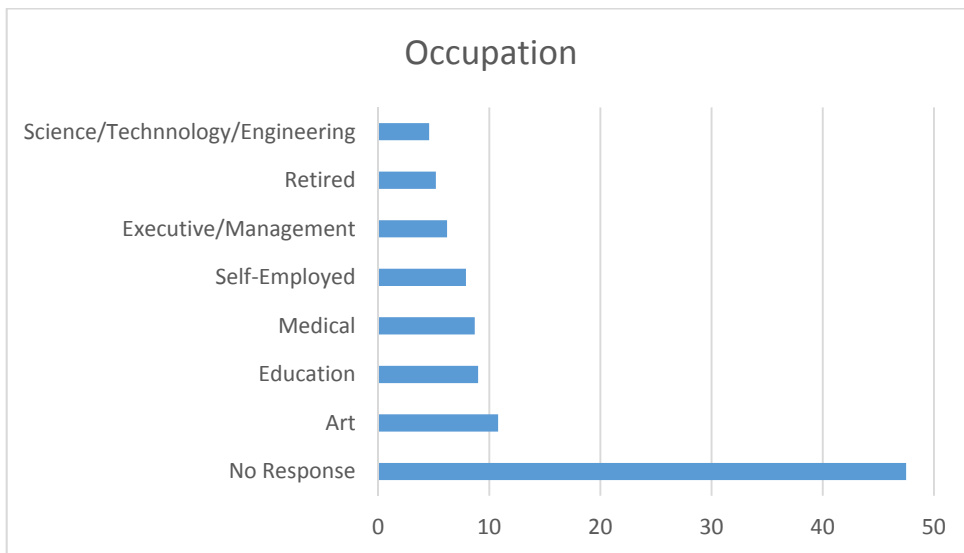
SEXUAL ORIENTATION and IDENTITY

As for the question regarding sexual orientation, 69.6% identified as heterosexual, 14.6% as homosexual, 12.2% as bisexual, 0.5% as asexual, and the remainder as transgendered.



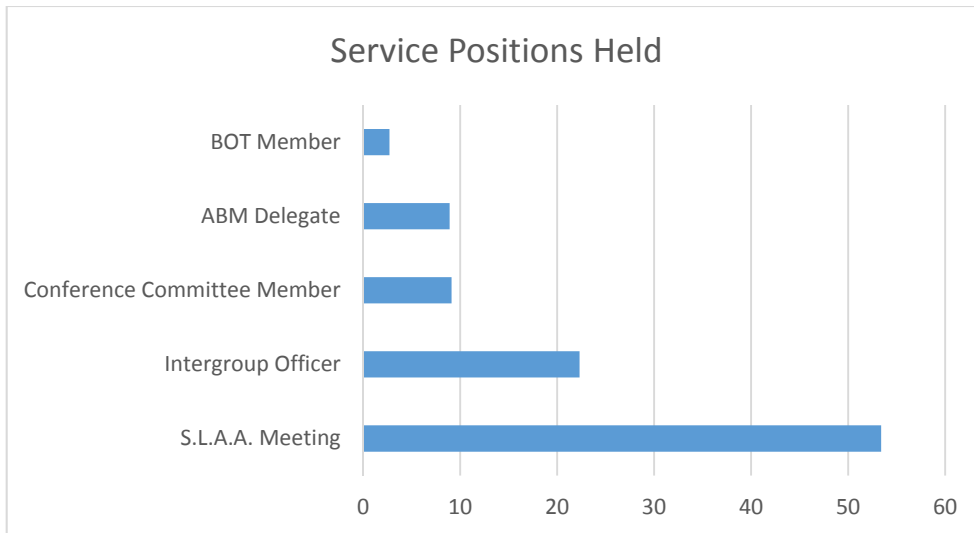
OCCUPATION

In the question regarding occupations of the membership, 47.5% did not respond, 10.8% identified as being in the Art field, 9% in the Education field, 8.7% in the Medical field, 7.9% as Self-employed, 6.2% in the Executive/Management field, 5.2% as retired, and 4.6% in the Science/Technology/Engineering fields.



SERVICE POSITIONS HELD

In the question regarding what service positions the member held, 53.4% held a S.L.A.A. meeting position, 22.3% held an officer position in an intergroup, 9.1% were members on a conference committee, 8.9% as an ABM delegate, 3.7% as a BOT committee member, and 2.7% as a BOT member.

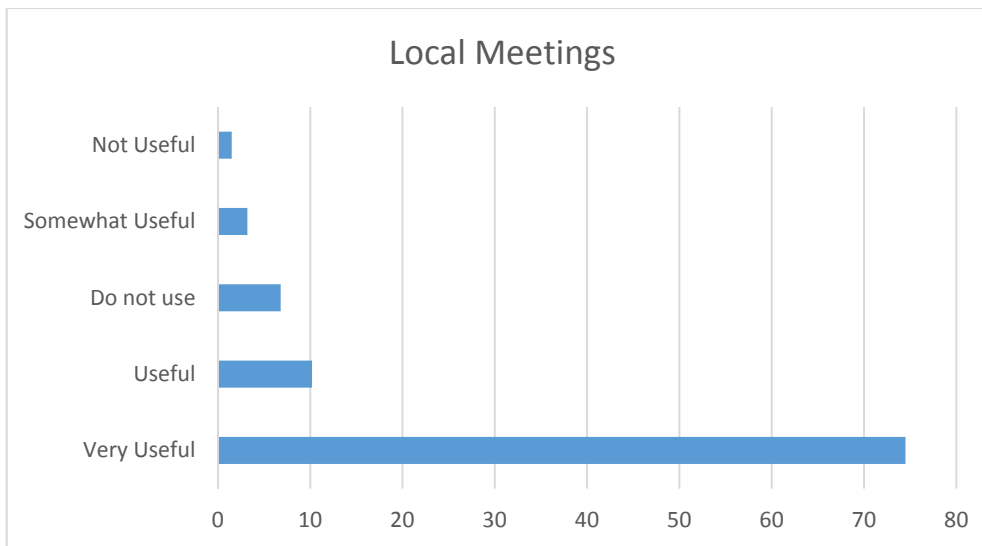


IMPORTANCE/USEFULNESS OF S.L.A.A. RESOURCES

There were several questions regarding the importance/ usefulness of S.L.A.A. resources. The answer range was from “very useful” to “useful” to “somewhat useful” to “not useful” to “do not use.”

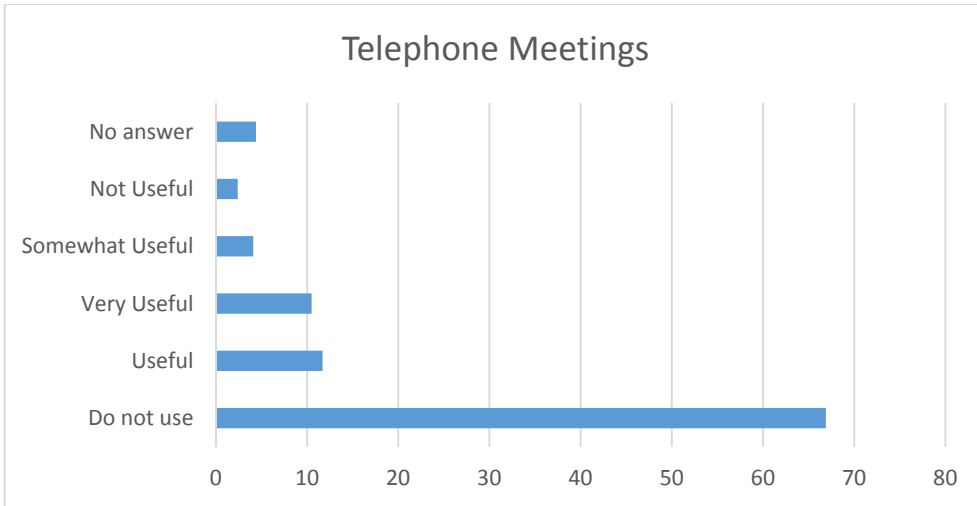
LOCAL MEETINGS

Almost $\frac{3}{4}$ (74.5%) of the respondents stated the local meetings were very useful, 10.2% found local meetings useful, 6.8% did not use local meetings, 3.2% found local meetings somewhat useful, and 1.5% found meetings not useful; 3.9% did not respond.



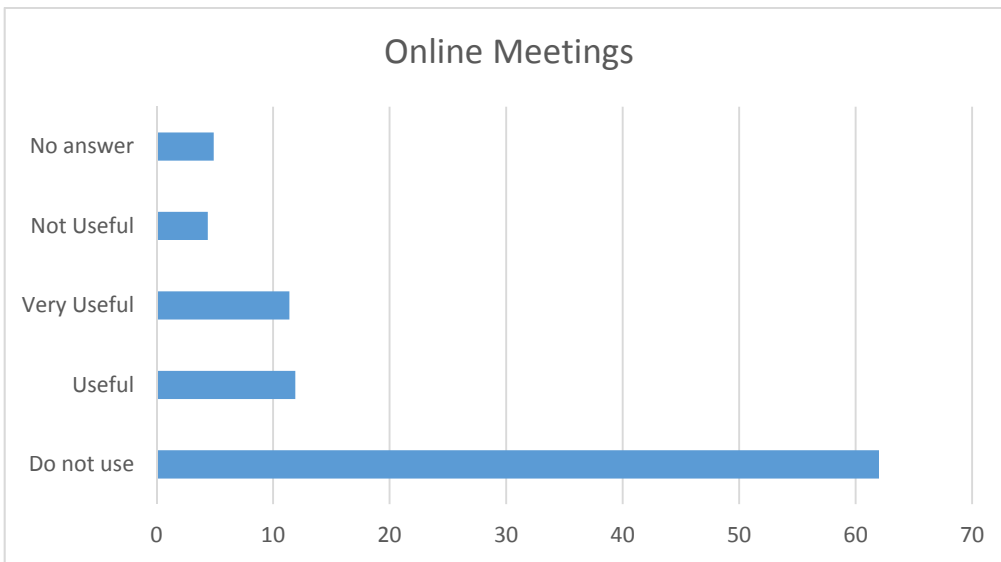
TELEPHONE MEETINGS

Regarding Telephone Meetings, 66.9% don't use them, 11.7% found them useful, 10.5% found them very useful, 4.1% found them somewhat useful, 2.4% found them not useful, and 4.4% did not answer.



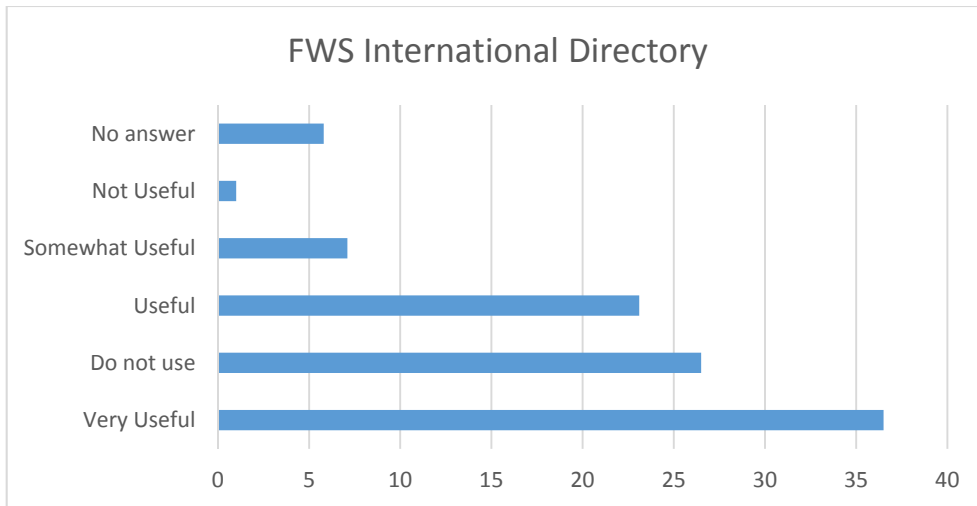
ONLINE MEETINGS

Sixty-two percent of respondents did not use Online Meetings; 11.9% found them useful, 11.4% found them very useful, 4.4% found them not useful, and 4.9% did not answer the question.



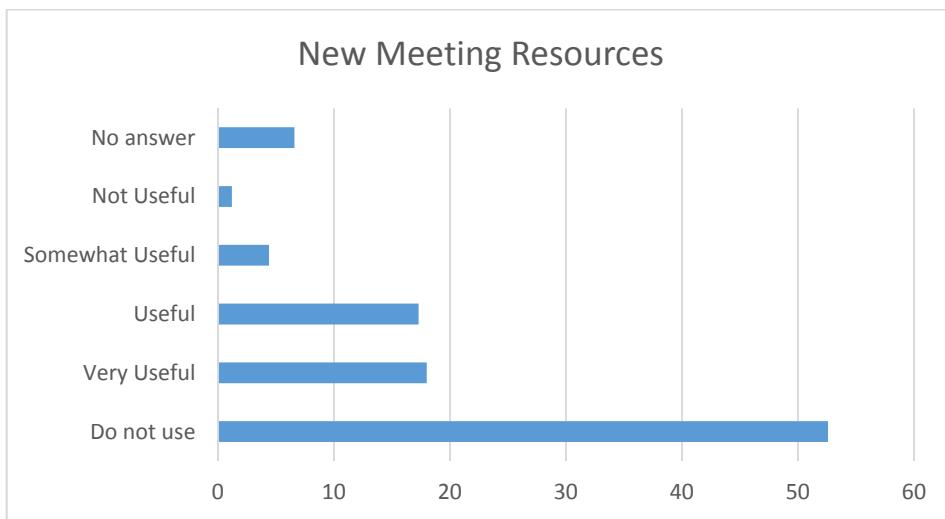
FWS INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY

Regarding The FWS International Directory, 36.5% found it very useful, 26.5% don't use it, 23.1% found it useful, 7.1% found it somewhat useful, 1.0% found it not useful, and 5.8% did not answer the question.



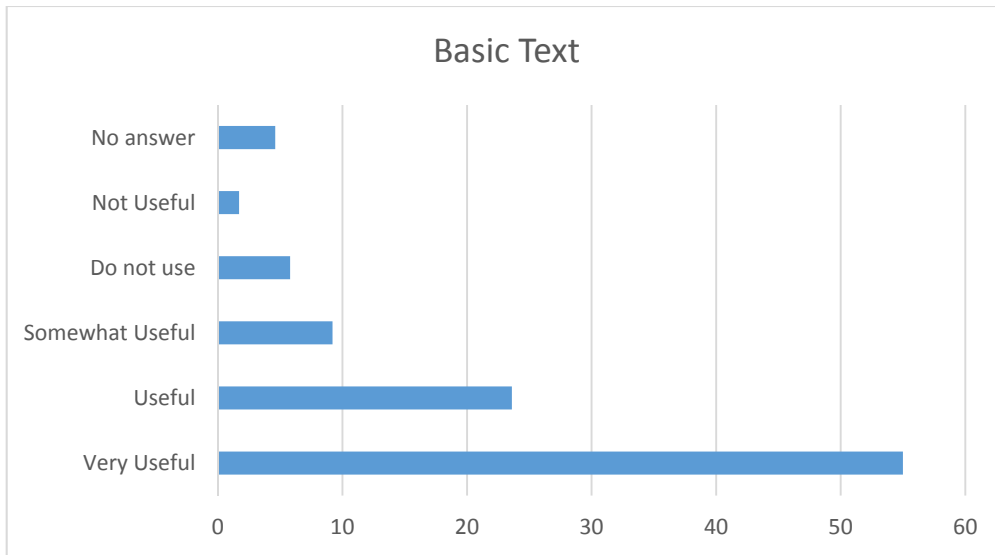
NEW MEETING RESOURCES

Regarding New Meeting Resources, 52.6% don't use them, 18% found them very useful, 17.3% found them useful, 4.4% found them somewhat useful, 1.2% found them not useful, and 6.6% did not answer the question.



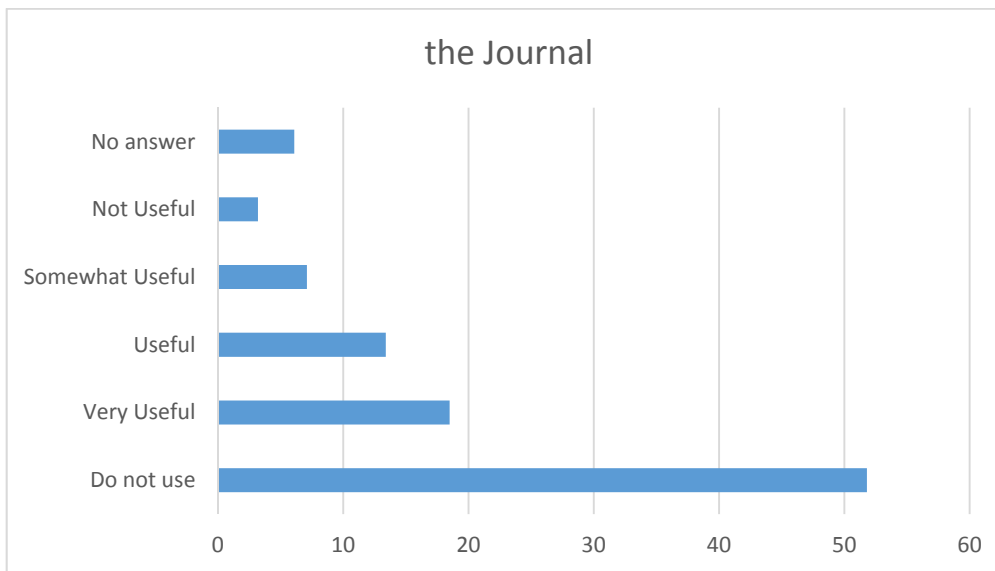
THE BASIC TEXT

Over half (55%) of the respondents found the Basic Text very useful, 23.6% found it useful, 9.2% found it somewhat useful, 5.8% don't use it, and 1.7% found it not useful; 4.6% did not answer the question.



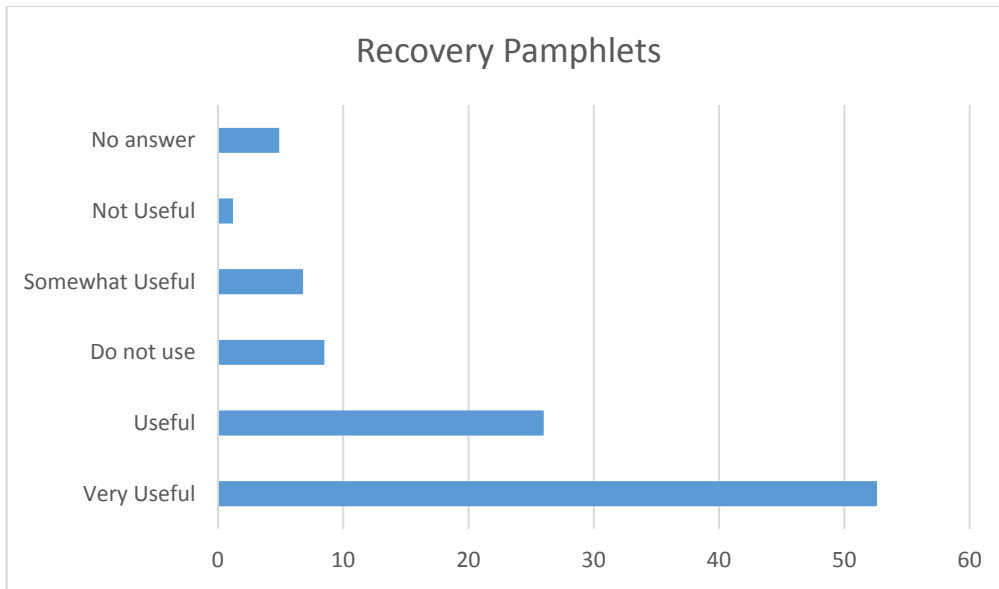
The *JOURNAL*

Regarding *the Journal*, 51.8% reported they don't use it, 18.5% found it very useful, 13.4% found it useful, 7.1% found it somewhat useful, and 3.2% found it not useful; 6.1% did not answer the question.



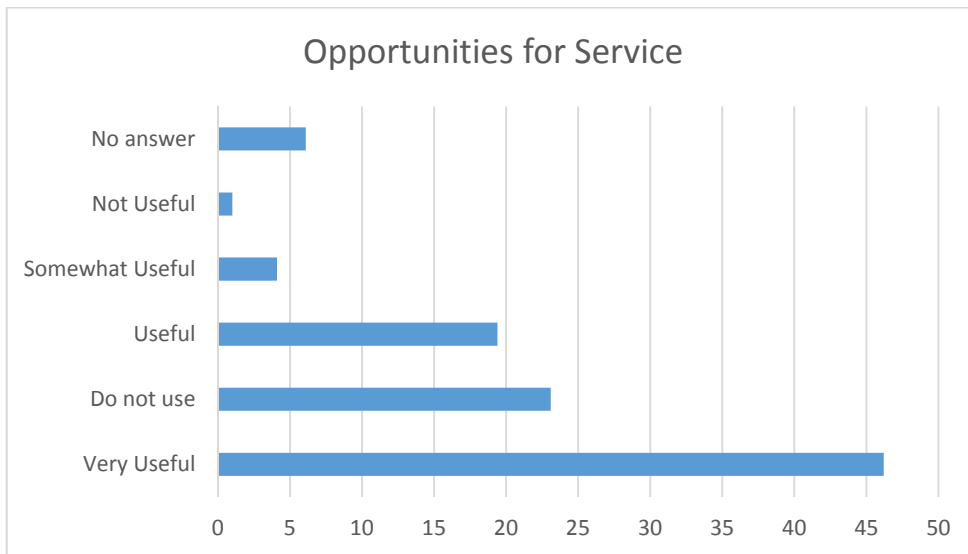
RECOVERY PAMPHLETS

Over half of the respondents (52.6%) found the Recovery pamphlets very useful, 26% found them useful, 8.5% don't use them, 6.8% found them somewhat useful and 1.2% found them not useful; 4.9% did not answer.



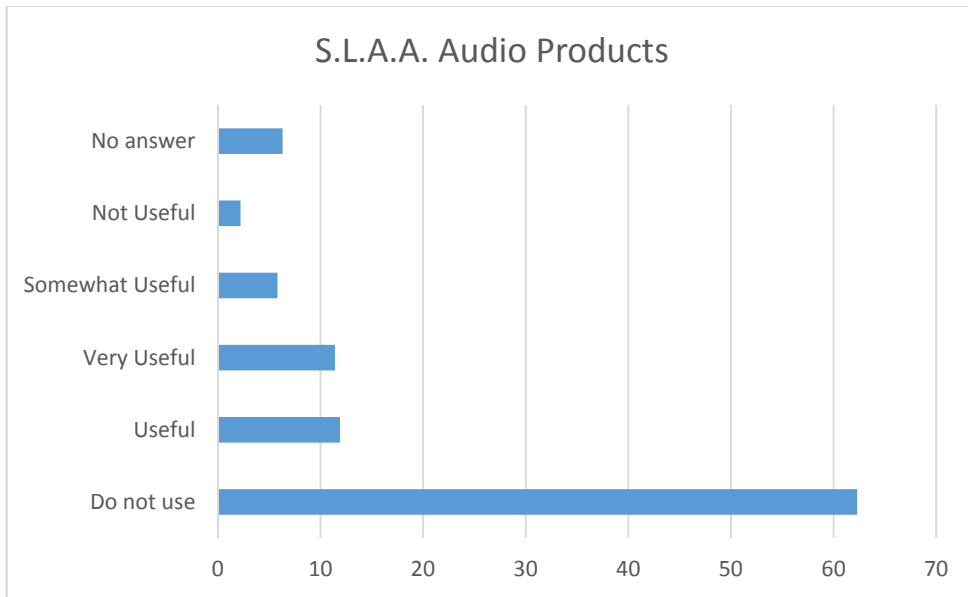
OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

Regarding Opportunities for Service, 46.2% of the respondents found them very useful, 23.1% don't use them, 19.4% found them useful, 4.1% found them somewhat useful, and 1.0% found them not useful. 6.1% did not answer the question.



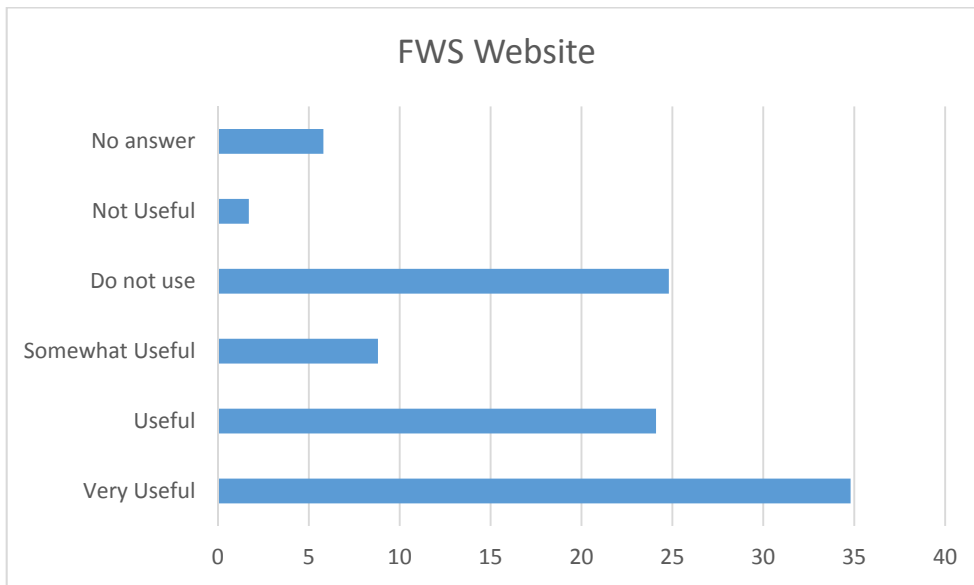
S.L.A.A AUDIO PRODUCTS

Almost 2/3 of the respondents (62.3%) reported not using the S.L.A.A. Audio Products (CDs, mp3, etc.), 11.9% found them useful, 11.4% found them very useful, 5.8% found them somewhat useful, and 2.2% found them not useful. And, 6.3% did not answer the question.



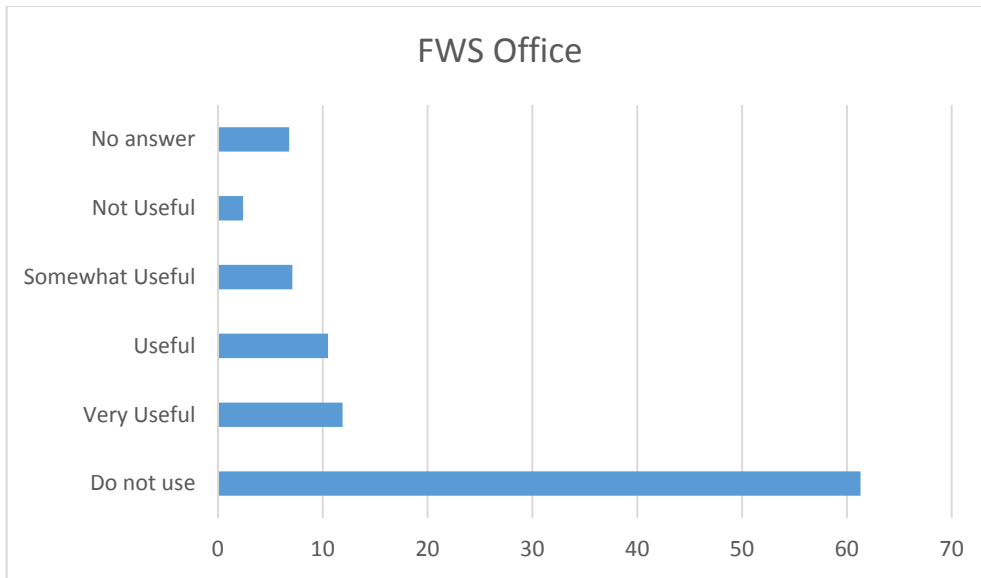
FWS WEBSITE

Over one-third of the respondents (34.8%) found the FWS Website very useful, 24.1% useful, 8.8% somewhat useful. However, 24.8% don't use the website, 1.7% found the website not useful, and 5.8% did not answer the question.



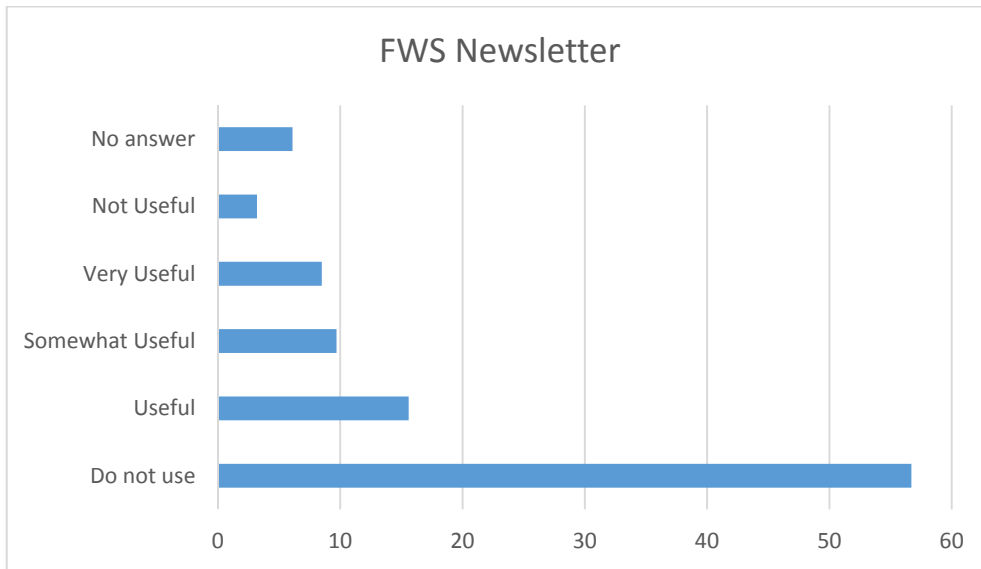
FWS OFFICE

Regarding the FWS Office, 61.3% don't use it, 11.9% found it very useful, 10.5% found it useful, 7.1% found it somewhat useful, and 2.4% found it not useful; 6.8% did not answer the question.



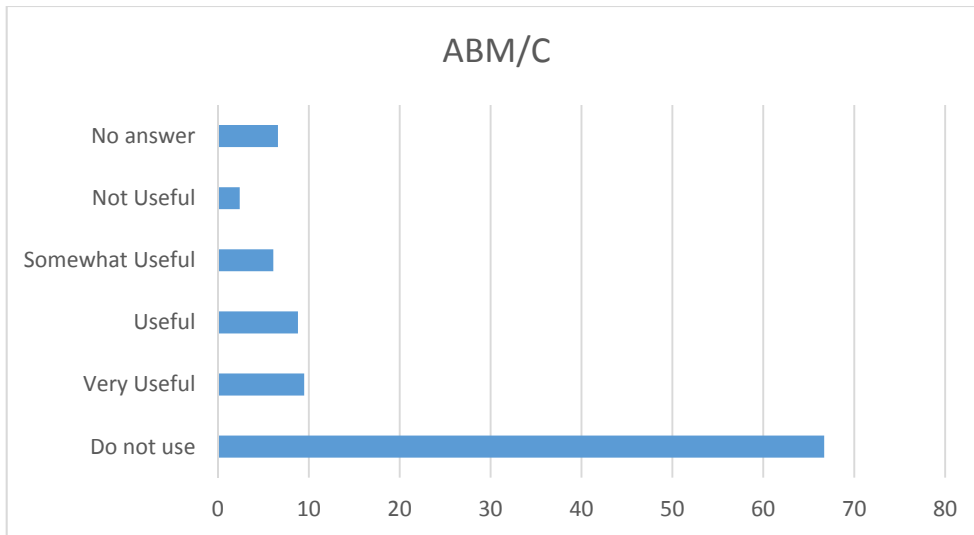
FWS NEWSLETTER

More than half of the respondents reported not using the FWS Newsletter (56.7%), 15.6% found it useful, 9.7% found it somewhat useful, 8.5% found it very useful, and 3.2% found it not useful; 6.1% did not answer the question.



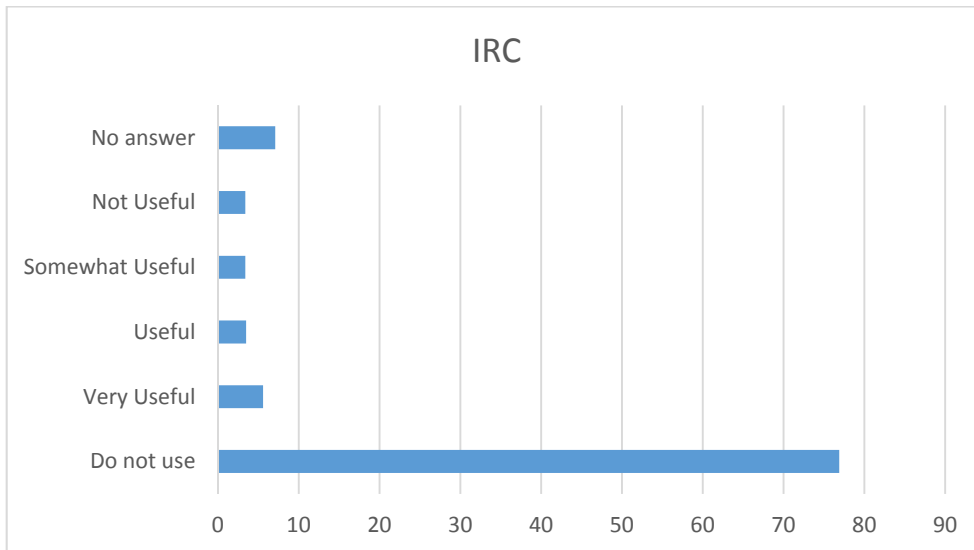
ABC/M

Regarding the Annual Business Conference/Meeting (ABC/M), 66.7% don't use it, 9.5% found it very useful, 8.8% found it useful, 6.1% found it somewhat useful, and 2.4% found it not useful. And, 6.6% did not answer.



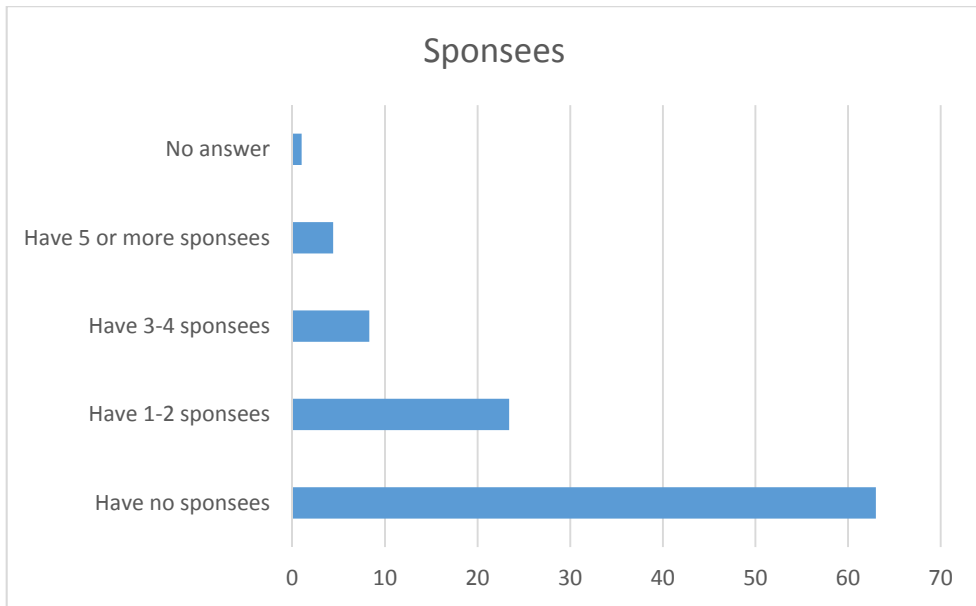
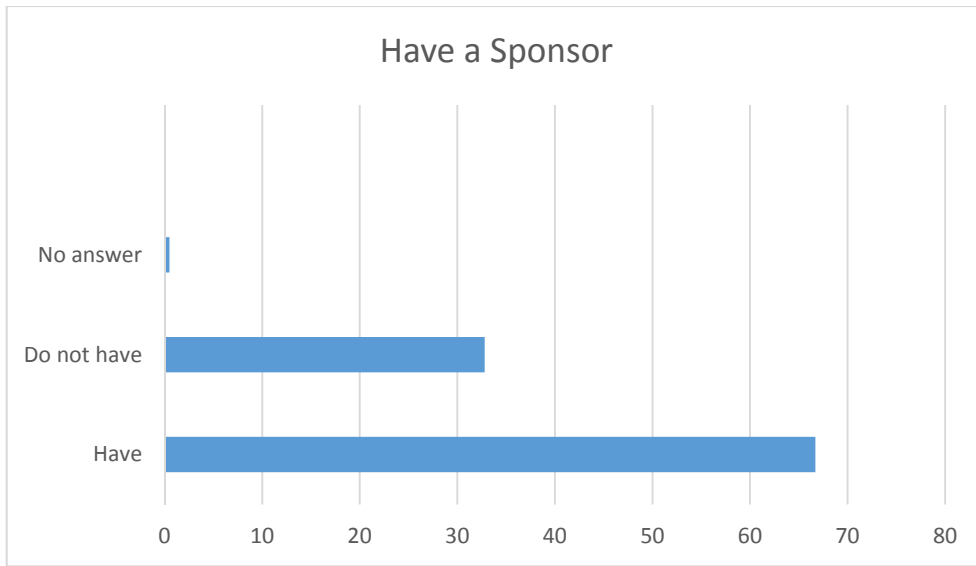
IRC

Regarding the IRC (International Recovery Convention), 76.9% don't use them, 5.6% found them very useful, 3.5% found them useful, 3.4% found them somewhat useful, and 3.4% found them not useful; 7.1% did not answer the question.



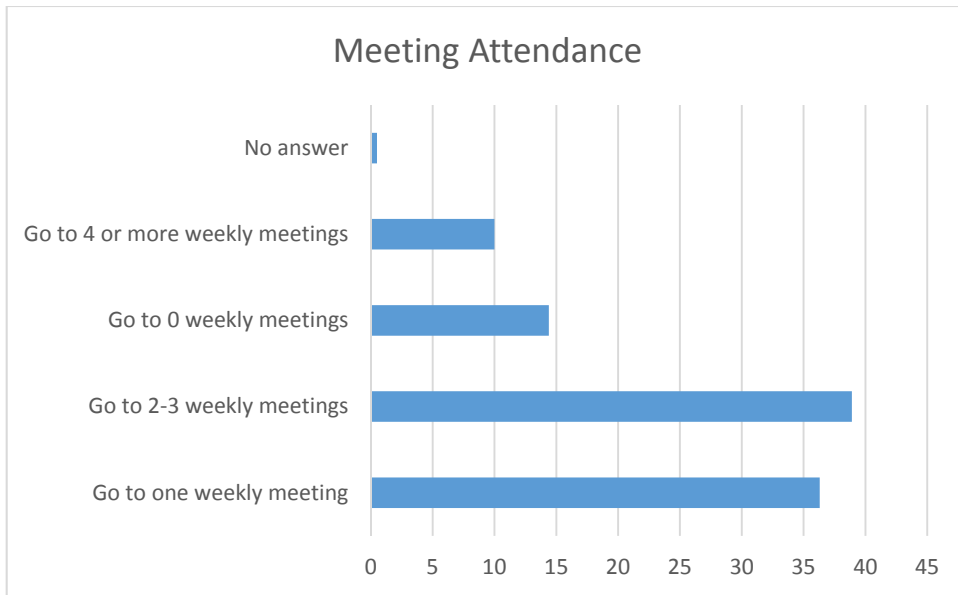
SPONSORSHIP

There were two questions regarding sponsorship. The respondents identified that 66.7% of them had a sponsor, 32.8% identified not having a sponsor, and 0.5% did not answer the question. For the members who sponsor, 63% reported not having a sponsee, 23.4% reported having 1-2 sponsees, 8.3% reported having 3-4 sponsees, and 4.4% had 5 or more sponsees. One percent did not answer the question.



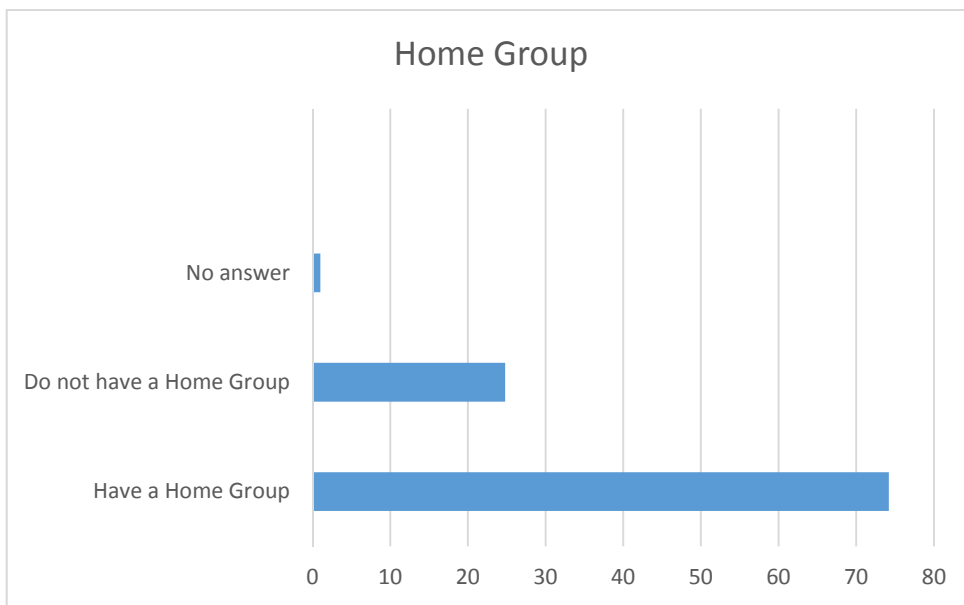
MEETING ATTENDANCE

Of the respondents attending weekly meetings, 36.3% went to one, 38.9% went to 2-3, 14.4% went to none, and 10% went to 4 or more meetings per week; 0.5% did not answer.



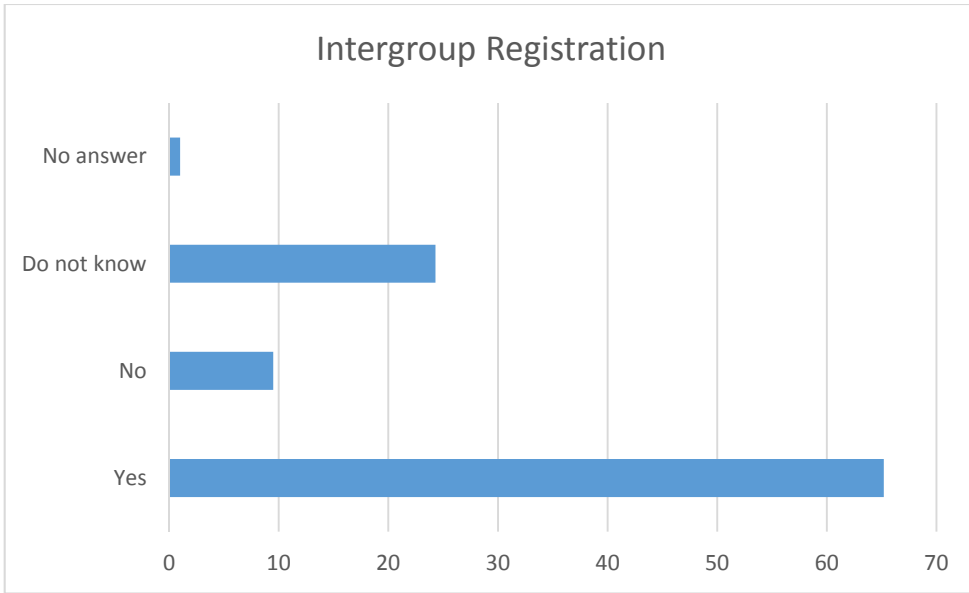
HOME GROUP

For the question about whether or not the member attended a meeting they identified as a Home Group, 74.2% reported having one and 24.8% did not; 1% did not answer the question.



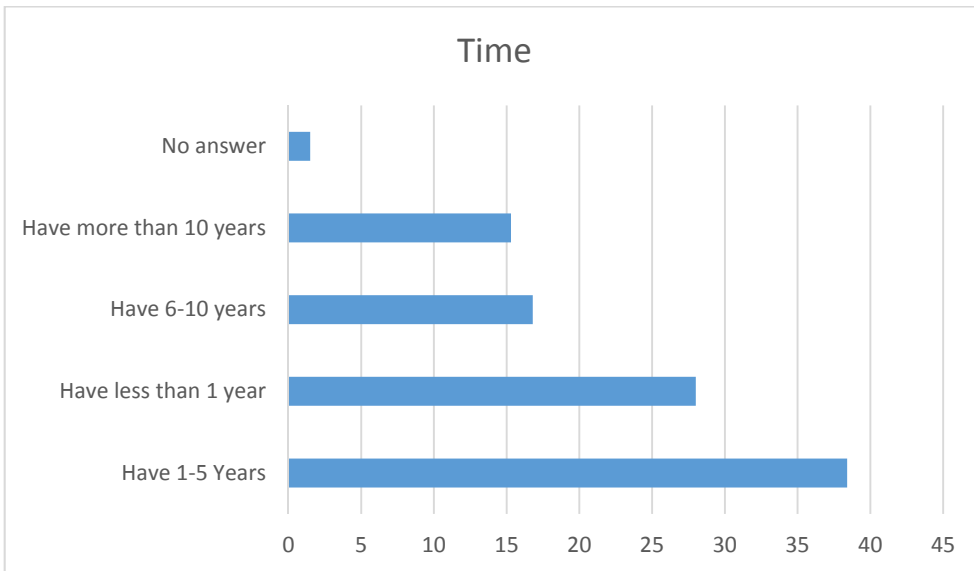
INTERGROUP REGISTRATION

Respondents were asked if their Intergroups were registered with the FWS Office. Almost 2/3 of the respondents (65.2%) answered yes, 9.5% answered they were not, 24.3% reported they do not know, and 1% did not answer the questions.

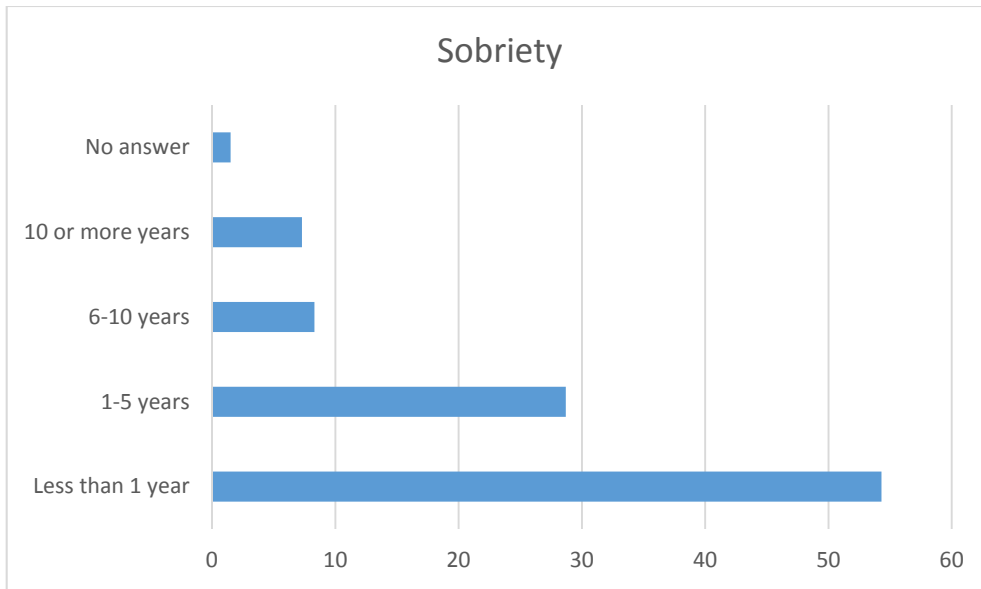


MEMBER SOBRIETY

Respondents were asked about how much time they have in the program. Of the respondents, 38.4% identified having 1-5 years in the program, 28.0% had less than one year, 16.8% had 6-10 years, 15.3% had more than 10 years in the program; 1.5% did not answer the question.

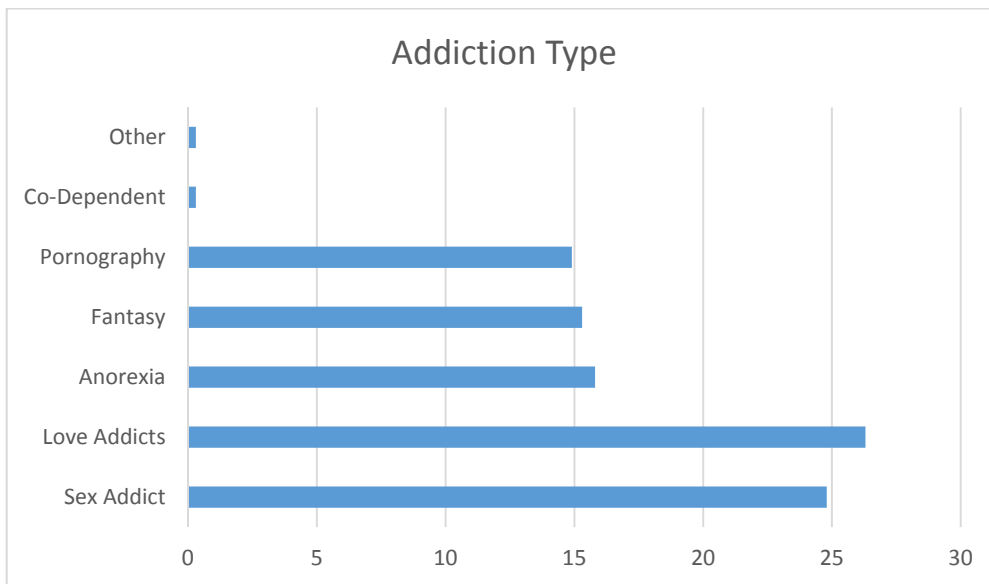


Respondents were asked about how much time in sobriety they had. Over half (54.3%) reported having less than a year, 28.7% as having 1-5 years, 8.3% as having 6-10 years, 7.3% as having more than 10 years, and 1.5% did not answer.



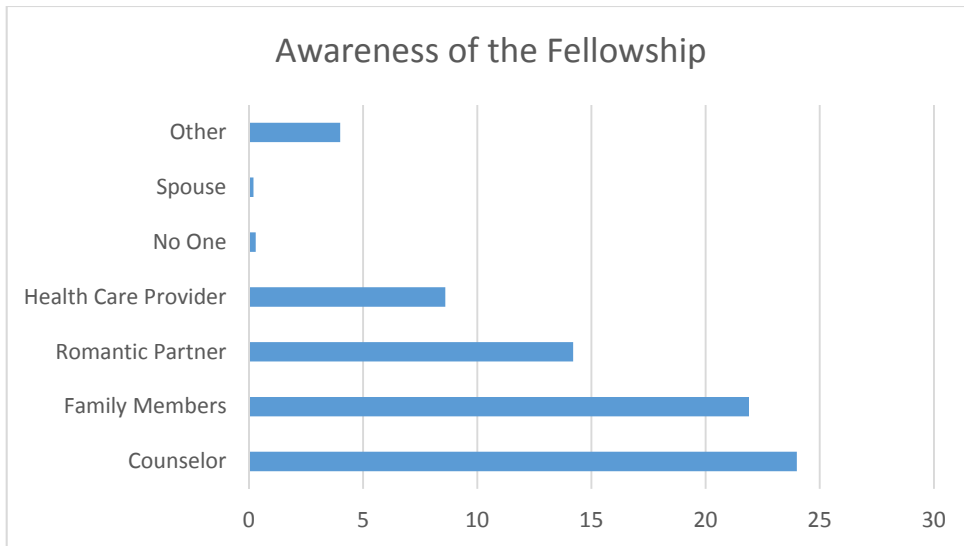
ADDICTION TYPE

Almost ¼ of the respondents (24.8%) identified as being sex addicts, 26.3% as love addicts, 15.8% as having a pattern of social, sexual, and emotional anorexia, 15.3% as fantasy addicts, 14.9% as pornography addicts, 0.3% as codependent, and 0.3% as other. Respondents were able to choose more than one category.



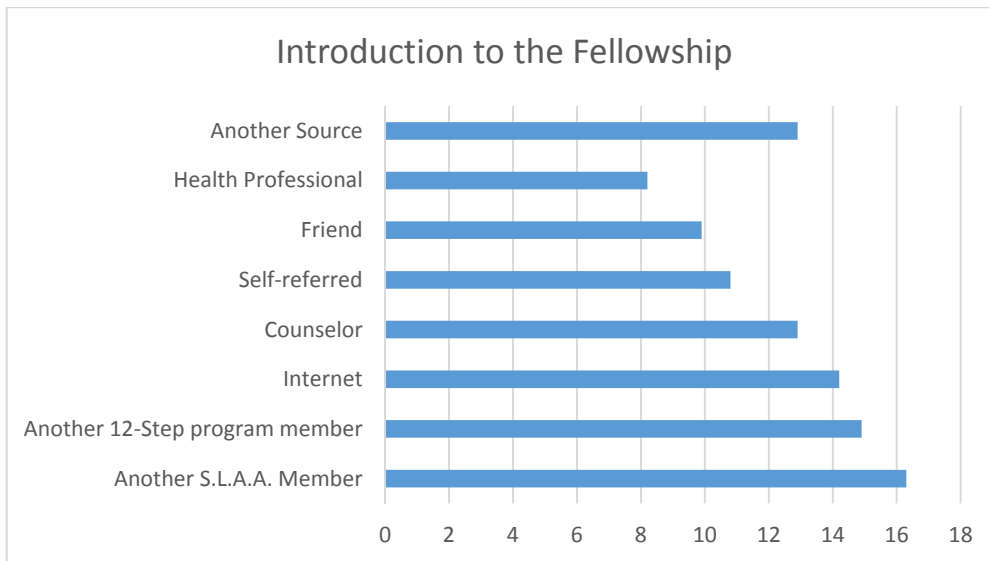
AWARENESS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

Almost ¼ of the respondents (24%) were made aware of the fellowship from a counselor, 21.9% from a family member, 14.2% from a Romantic partner, 8.6% from a Health care provider, 0.3% from no one, 0.2 % from a spouse, and 4% from other sources.



INTRODUCTION TO THE FELLOWSHIP

Respondents were asked how they were introduced to the fellowship. Of the respondents, 16.3% were introduced to S.L.A.A. by another S.L.A.A. member, 14.9% by another 12-Step program member, 14.2% by the internet, 12.9% by a counselor, 10.8% were Self-referred, 9.9% reported by a friend, 8.2% by a health professional, and 12.9% by another source.



The survey offered a box for comments. In the comment boxes were shares of gratitude, comments about what doesn't work, and suggestions for what might make our fellowship and its resources better. Here is a summary of the comments offered:

SURVEY

There were many comments sharing gratitude for implementing this survey, for seeking the input of the membership, and for the service work involved. Some respondents commented that this survey was a good way to get to know how the members of the S.L.A.A. community are being served. There were members that shared the importance of collecting, distributing, and analyzing this information as a way of helping the fellowship grow and to improve. Some commented on the number of resources available in S.L.A.A. of which they were unaware and, as a result of answering the survey, were more aware.

GRATITUDE

The BPRC wishes to thank the respondents for all the comments they shared about their gratitude to the Fellowship; that it exists; that it has saved their lives, their marriages and relationships; for feeling heard; getting support; for recognition of painful life patterns and the tools to move toward recovery; and for acceptance.

Others specifically shared gratitude for online meetings, the inspiration line, and for the many tools/resources available in the program.

WEBSITE

In addition to gratitude for the website, respondents offered a couple of suggestions. One was to become more “findable” in Google searches and to move to a Wiki-style format.

JOURNAL

There was a suggestion to make the Journal available in an electronic subscription (i.e., PDF, EPUB format).

BOT (Board of Trustees), BOT COMMITTEES, CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

There were several specific requests about the BOT. One was to provide more information to the membership about the BOT in addition to the flow chart and brief description in the Conference Service Manual. Also requested was more information about the Board and Conference Committees in hopes there might be more interested members that would volunteer.

Another suggestion was to form an advisory group to the BOT. This group would receive all the communication, minutes, and notes from BOT meetings, allowing for more participation and transparency and to avert “personality and intrigue” issues. In this comment, was also a request to fill empty BOT seats with those who want it rather than those that are needed.

Another comment stated the BOT should be expanded, requiring representatives of Europe, Asia, Australia, South America, etc., and LBGT, women, & men in proportion to membership.

GROUPS FOR WOMEN AND MINORITY GROUPS

There were several comments that requested more help in either finding or starting all-women meetings.

There were other comments that S.L.A.A. does not have the numbers of people of color that is proportionate to those that are suffering from this addiction and encouraged S.L.A.A. to have more outreach to people of color, Africans, African Americans, Latinos, Hispanics, Asians, and Native Americans. It was suggested to refer to AA's literature on this topic.

SPONSORSHIP

There were several comments as to how difficult it was to find/obtain a sponsor, especially for women. In addition, comments included how important this relationship is in learning how to work the Steps.

CHIPS

There was a suggestion to make the cost of mailing chips less expensive.

LITERATURE REQUESTS

In a general comment regarding literature, there was a suggestion to make literature easier to obtain, with more free downloads and copyright-free publications so that groups can reproduce.

The Basic Text

There were comments stating the Basic Text is in need of editing. There were suggestions to include Internet pornography and stories of recovery from Internet pornography, and to include anorexia and stories of recovery from social, sexual, and emotional anorexia in the Basic Text.

Included in the comments was also that the Basic Text was written in a manner that is very intellectual and difficult to understand and that some of the stories are triggering.

Pamphlets

There were several suggestions and requests for additional literature/pamphlets. Here is a list of those topics for future literature:

- Teens
- Victims of Domestic Violence
- Inventory worksheets/pamphlets for each step
- Internet porn
- Setting boundaries with the internet
- Service opportunities and rotation of service
- Conference approved step working guide and in other languages
- Relapse prevention
- Dating and being in a healthy relationship.

12x12

There were a few comments requesting the completion of an S.L.A.A. 12 Steps and 12 Traditions book.

MEETING REQUESTS

There were several suggestions to hold different types of meetings, meeting times, or specific populations. Here is a list of those suggestions:

- More morning, afternoon, and early evening meetings
- More open meetings
- Meetings for sex workers
- Meetings for women who experienced domestic violence
- Meetings focused on the development of healthy relationships and sexuality
- More women's meetings

Some suggestions as to meeting guidelines are listed:

- Avoid "therapy talk" in meetings

- Increase focus on working the Steps
- Let members talk about whatever they wished and to get rid of the three-minute timing for comments
- Be more inclusive and welcoming to those identifying as social, emotional, and sexual anorexics.
- Include the importance of keeping meeting safe from stalking, sexual harassment, and predatory behavior and to treat these issues seriously.

There was one suggestion to help those having difficulty navigating the religious tones of the 12-step program.

Online Meetings

In addition to gratitude for online meetings and a request that they continue, there were comments that the online meetings are daunting for those not versed in the use of technology and to keep the online meeting free from predators.

ABM/IRC

Several respondents commented about their positive experiences at an ABM (Annual Business Meeting). One comment stated that attending the ABM gave a depth to their recovery. Another shared how committed ABM participants were, going to any lengths to maintain their own sobriety, to care about S.L.A.A. as a whole, and to know how much support there is behind S.L.A.A. groups and intergroups.

An additional comment stated the ABM was greatly organized, well executed, and contained instructive content.

A suggestion was offered to increase the participation in the ABM, stating the cost as a deterrent to participation. To increase the participation there could be “discussion groups” with both in-person and skyped participants, and any decisions could be ratified by a vote of some percentage of registered intergroups and lone groups, including internet groups.

There was one specific comment to get the IRC (International Recovery Convention) up and running again.

AUDIO

There was a suggestion from a respondent to discontinue the CDs that were poor in quality and difficult to understand.

OUTREACH

There were several comments regarding the need for more knowledge about S.L.A.A. and FWS, as well as finding opportunities to serve our community. There was also a suggestion to increase the understanding of sex and love addiction among our membership.

There was also a suggestion that local websites maintain updates to their websites.

HOW

There were a several comments made directly about HOW. These comments included shared gratitude for HOW and the other requesting an investigation of HOW as their practices are causing division among S.L.A.A. members.

Outgoing Board Chair's Discussion of Survey Results

We are so pleased that we have been able to present to you the results of our first Membership Survey. While only four hundred and eleven of us filled out the survey out of what we suspect may be as many as 16,000 members, it is a beginning. We hope to make the survey a biennial event and we hope that each time we do it, more and more of us will respond as we get the word out about the survey.

We were so happy to receive comments in the survey results. Many of you expressed gratitude for the tools and resources available in the program. An outpouring of gratitude for recovery in general was expressed. Others of you voiced explicit concerns; we want you to know that we hear you. Since the survey was done, there have been many exciting changes that have come down the pike, and I wanted to share a few of them with you as some of them address some of the concerns that you shared.

Some of the respondents of the survey weren't sure what F.W.S. (Fellowship-Wide Services) does. A big part of what we do is provide resources, i.e., literature, and information, and tools like medallions, shares on CDs, etc. F.W.S. runs the Store. This year, F.W.S has gone digital! We have finally moved into the technological age, bringing many new audio products to the F.W.S. store in the form of MP3s of bestselling shares (in process), MP3s of past issues of the Journal, MP3s of the Sponsorship Teleseries, and best of all our Basic Text is now available on MP3. Just recently we have put our Basic Text on Amazon Kindle and Apple iBooks. We've also gone digital with the Journal (a meeting in print!) and put everything having to do with the Journal on one page: <http://www.slaafws.org/thejournal>. We've also gone through and listened to every CD this year, removing all of the ones which were of poor quality, and giving a description of all of the shares on the website. If there is a problem, we want to know about it so we can do better; please drop us a line at <http://www.slaafws.org/contact/General+Questions>.

There were comments on the survey about not knowing enough about the Board of Trustees (BOT), and wanting more info. Just recently, we have posted the minutes of the BOT on the Website <http://www.slaafws.org/botminutes>. We also posted the Strategic Plan that the BOT is trying to follow. Coming soon will be a suggestion box of sorts, where comments, suggestions, input, or recommendations can be sent. There was interest by members for more information about the Board and Conference Committees. There is a link on the website with this information on the <http://www.slaafws.org/abminfo> page. A lot of great information can be found about the Conference. Currently the Webmaster is working on developing a "Committee Corner," where Conference Committees can post information about projects they are working on, and ways for members to get involved if they are interested.

Someone asked when we were going to have an International Recovery Convention again – and we want you to know that we are having it next year in Houston, Texas!!! What is an International Recovery Convention you say? S.L.A.A. members will be coming from all over the world for a weekend of fun, which usually includes large speaker meetings, breakout topic and workshop meetings, a couple of banquet-style meals, entertainment, a hospitality suite, S.L.A.A. literature and audio tape/CD sales of the speaker and topic meetings recorded during the event, and trinkets as a fundraiser. The event will be held at a hotel in Houston next summer; more details will follow, so keep watching for announcements.

I hope that this information has been helpful to you, and if there are any other questions, please don't hesitate to ask, by contacting us at: <http://www.slaafws.org/contact/General+Questions>.

Susan G., Outgoing Board Chair, S.L.A.A.

Fellowship-Wide Services

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE FELLOWSHIP-WIDE SERVICES (F.W.S.) OFFICE...

- Provides worldwide meeting information to newcomers, to members moving or traveling to other locations, as well as to other interested parties via the website, telephone, mail and email.
- Maintains a database of worldwide Groups, Intergroups, Lone Groups, group contacts, meeting times and dates via the F.W.S. website. In addition keeps separate databases for Conference members, Committee members and F.W.S. Newsletter subscribers.
- Gives free information to potential newcomers as well as to professionals who may be interested in further information about S.L.A.A.
- Sells/updates Group/Intergroup Starter Kits and assists new Groups in getting started.
- With the help of volunteers and committees publishes the F.W.S. Newsletter quarterly with a distribution list of 1600 members worldwide? The F.W.S. Newsletter is distributed via email or at cost for hard copies plus postage to anyone that does not have access to email.
- Provides a place for Groups and Intergroups to turn to for feedback and information on group related issues.
- Works with Intergroups, Groups and other S.L.A.A. "offices" to provide information to members and those seeking help.
- Supports Conference Committees in their work such as helping provide prison outreach to correctional institutes, assist with production of *the Journal* and creating new recovery products/tools and new literature.
- Generates more than 2,500 invoices, publishes and ships more than 80,000 pieces of S.L.A.A. literature and recovery tools a year including 17 pamphlets; booklets on Triggers as a Resource and Anorexia; 5 *Journal focus* booklets; the S.L.A.A. Basic Text in softbound, and audio CD; the softbound 3 volume set of *The First Ten Years of the Journal* and a bi-monthly magazine, *the Journal*, with 225 subscribers.
- Responds to national and international media and the professional community inquiries via the Board Public Relations Committee and the F.W.S. staff.
- Sponsors the Annual Business Conference and Meeting (ABC/M). This involves securing a site, handling logistics, securing housing, food and audio/visual equipment, handling all aspects of pre and onsite registration, administering the Travel Equalization Fund, obtaining local volunteer help, running the auction, processing all monies, and attending to anything that may arise when preparing for the Conference.
- Has to be maintained so that all of the above can happen. Employees and volunteer Board members handle all facets of the office operations including: purchasing of supplies, equipment and merchandise, production of merchandise, creating a budget and monitoring it, all accounting and tax functions, and adherence to government guidelines regarding administration of a non-profit organization.
- Does all of the above solely to help fulfill the primary purpose as stated in Tradition Five, to carry the S.L.A.A. message to the sex and love addict who still suffers.

- Is fully self-supporting according to Tradition Seven. The F.W.S. Office does not accept any contributions from outside sources. It relies entirely on contributions from groups and their members to support its functioning as well as the sales of S.L.A.A. Conference-approved literature.

If you have questions or would like more information on S.L.A.A.

Call 210-828-7900 #

Fax 210-828-7922 #

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

Mail:

**The Augustine Fellowship
1550 NE Loop 410, Ste. 118
San Antonio TX 78209**

Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm CT.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CORNER

USING NON CONFERENCE APPROVED MATERIALS

Q. There's a telephone meeting that is using unapproved books for its reading material. What should I do? I already tried to tell them that this went against the Traditions and that they have a group conscience, but they didn't even vote. A few people were for and against but no vote.

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 one of those questions which seems to reappear every couple years. It is typically recommended that we use S.L.A.A. literature in our meetings so that everyone is receiving the same message. However, there are subjects which come up from time to time which causes us to refer to the writings of AA, NA or another 12 Step recovery program. A good example of this is when it involves the 12 Traditions. As to whether or not the use of outside literature violates the Traditions, I would refer everyone to Tradition 4 which states the "Each group is autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or S.L.A.A. as a whole." If a group should decide by group conscience to use outside literature as part of their meetings, the literature should be introduced as not being S.L.A.A. approved and that it is being used due to S.L.A.A. not having literature available on the subject and that it is being used by group conscience.

In addition to making reference to AA literature on the subject of the 12 Traditions, I would like to suggest that there may be valuable insight in the NA and AI Anon literature as well. Both of them speak to the principle of group and fellowship unity (Tradition One) in working with common literature. Both also speak to the importance of Tradition Nine, which states that we in S.L.A.A. are not professionals in any field, we do not affiliate with any religious movement, outside organization, professional viewpoint, or public causes. Our message is grounded in the sharing of experience strength and hope among peers with a common condition on the path to a common healing experience.

They also speak of the use of common literature to maintain clarity about the primary purpose of the fellowship (Tradition Five), a way to define the difference between carrying the specific message of a specific fellowship and that of any outside entity (Tradition Six), thus avoiding the potential for public controversy (Tradition Ten) and the need to maintain cohesiveness in the fellowship "as a whole" while honoring the right of each group to create the "autonomous" flavor and format that reflects the needs of its members (the full, not partial message in Tradition Four).

As to the suggestion that in S.L.A.A. meetings it is necessary to use outside literature to enrich or provide spiritual substance to a discussion about the process of working the 12 Steps, or the process of working with the Traditions, each of these points can be re-examined in light of the fact that S.L.A.A. has a rich storehouse of information about all these things in its own literature catalog. It includes a series of essays on the 12 Traditions published in the S.L.A.A. Journal in the later part of the 1980s and early 1990s, as well as a set of essays on the 12 Traditions published in the FWS Newsletter, throughout the mid-2000s. All this material could be harvested and published in a booklet for the use of the SLAA community, in a manner similar to the way some of our other "Journal Article Booklets" have been published.

I don't think this is about a matter of 'group' autonomy. I think this is about how we present the message of recovery while using the S.L.A.A. name, and thus it is about how we share the message of S.L.A.A. as a whole. My honest hope is that someday, our S.L.A.A. community can come to understand that the literature we use in our meetings IS our unified message of recovery. Our message is strongest when we write it together as a "family," and when we all read from the same pages as we heal.

This is an ongoing topic within the fellowship. I remember discussions about accepting "Friends literature" at a previous ABM, including Al-Anon material in the absence of an S.L.A.A. 12 X 12, but it had not received enough support to become a proposal. It was understood that aside from using some AA literature (Big Book and 12 X 12) as referred to in the S.L.A.A. Basic Text (sorry I don't have the page), there would not be any other literature accepted for the purpose of recovery of sex and love addiction other than the S.L.A.A. Conference approved documents or draft material, identified as such.

In 2002, a proposal was passed as "To distribute the following statement: *"The Conference understands that some patterns of our addiction have a lack of experience reflected within our literature (I understand Anorexia or diversity could have been one of them). In an effort to fill this gap, we encourage members to submit their personal experience to the Journal and the Conference Literature Committee (CLC) 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."* (c.f. S.L.A.A. Index of Motions)

So, the Conference does not encourage use of outside literature.

I would say this is to support our Unity (Tradition One). Also, according to Tradition Four, even if each group is autonomous, I think that a reflection should take place in group conscience (Tradition Two) on the impact that the use of outside literature might have on the fellowship as a whole, especially through phone or on-line meetings where a number of people attend who might get the wrong idea about the S.L.A.A. message, as this is really the purpose of the meetings, "To carry its message to the sex and love addict who still suffers" (Tradition Five), I would say the S.L.A.A. message.

There was once a big controversy in my area about an Anorexia focused group using outside literature, because there was, in fact, little material within the fellowship to address that pattern of the addiction. The group had resorted to Tradition Four (autonomy) while mentioning it was not Conference approved material. I am happy though, to read in the above motion, how such problems can be addressed. The thing is that when

you resort to outside literature, you might be giving an author or approach an authority on sex and love addiction recovery that could affect S.L.A.A. message. This could also be seen as a breach of the Twelfth Tradition about anonymity.

I believe the S.L.A.A. fellowship has now a vast array of both written and audio material that the members can use. Also, since we evolve as recovering individuals we can certainly find renewed inspiration every time we read any known material, including the draft literature and shares in the Journal or the Newsletter in our pool of recovery tools.

As far as inspiration on spirituality, I believe the Steps and Traditions provide enough. Other sources or approaches towards spirituality should not be addressed within S.L.A.A. meetings as this is not the purpose of the meetings (Tradition Five).

I agree that my own often-expressed valuing of the autonomy of individual groups and group conscience in local meetings really speaks to one important principle while ignoring others I have minimized, like Tradition six, and the importance of not appearing to endorse "outside enterprise" of any sort. Tradition 10, I believe, is also relevant. My own ego has often led me to slip my own ideas into meeting formats, and these have never really been of value to others or (thankfully) continued to be present for any length of time other than very brief. I like the respect in the statements worked out by other 12 Step groups that specifically express the understanding that many "outside resources" are very good, but that confidence in our own rigorous process of developing literature through to getting Conference approval is clearly stated.

S.L.A.A. is a 12 Step fellowship that permits the use of outside literature if it is the group conscience (Tradition 2) and clearly stated as outside literature. Each group is autonomous (Tradition 4). Please see the [ABM Index of Motions](#) July 2013 pages M-41 and M-42 posted on the F.W.S. website for motions passed in 2002 and 2006 re: the exact language.

One example of literature frequently used by groups or sponsors is a book, about sexual anorexia, which is privately copyrighted and sold for profit. Other examples include 12x12 books of several fellowships. Even the [S.L.A.A. Basic Text](#) p.66 states that the [A.A. Big Book](#), Chapters 5-7 and [A.A. 12 Steps and 12 Traditions](#) are helpful in working the Steps.

Groups and meetings will likely choose recovery literature on relevant topics rather than literature on outside issues. However, this is a group conscience decision (Tradition 2).

My experience is that communities where S.L.A.A. meetings study outside literature have better recovery than communities where the meetings limit their recovery resources to S.L.A.A. copyrighted literature. There are also variations depending on the experience of the S.L.A.A. members who attend meetings who have read and experienced recovery from outside literature by attending the meetings of other 12 Step fellowships and studying their literature. My experience is that it is difficult to achieve complete recovery when limiting resources to S.L.A.A. copyrighted literature. Personally, I encourage my sponsees to purchase, read and study literature from other 12 Step fellowships and outside literature.

A meeting's group conscious can be informal. There is no requirement for a business meeting or voting. Again each meeting is autonomous (Tradition 4) regarding the use of outside literature but it should be presented as outside literature and not presented as S.L.A.A. Conference-approved literature.

Use of S.L.A.A. copyrighted draft literature is encouraged. This is part of the process for creating the first S.L.A.A. 12x12 and also for creating other draft literature that has been written and is being written and circulated for feedback in preparation for possible Conference-approval. S.L.A.A. draft literature is copyrighted by S.L.A.A. and is not outside literature.

Background information:

Please see the board statement re: *What is Conference Approved Literature* from October 2011 provided below.

What is Conference Approved Literature?

To date, S.L.A.A.'s Conference-approved literature consists only of the following twenty 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)
- Romantic Obsession (S.L.A.A. pamphlet)
- Triggers as a Resource (S.L.A.A. booklet)
- Measuring Progress (S.L.A.A. pamphlet)

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. 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 12 Step Program, including other "S" programs.

From the F.W.S. Newsletter, Vol. 19, No. 1 / January 2005
Updated June 2009 by the F.W.S. Web Team and October 2011

LISTING OF MULTI-AFFILIATION MEETINGS

Q. The issue is this: Four or five meetings currently listed as S.L.A.A. meetings and listed on our website as S.L.A.A. meetings have requested to be listed as multiple affiliation meetings (i.e. S.L.A.A./SAA/SCA) and to have this designated along with their meeting information on the website and on our printed meeting list.

They wish to maintain both their registration as S.L.A.A. meetings and to be listed on the IG website as S.L.A.A. meetings.

What is the position of the BOT, FWS, and Steps and Traditions Committee on this proposal?

We would appreciate your thoughts as soon as possible as these opinions, policies, and understandings of the Traditions will be very helpful in helping us form a group conscience at the Intergroup level on this matter.

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: the aspect of distribution of the voluntary contributions in multi-affiliations meeting was not addressed by the committee.

S.L.A.A. has a history of cooperation with other 'S' Fellowships in participation on meetings lists of multiple 'S' Fellowships in the local area. Some of these have been successful and continued for many years. I am unaware of harm done by this. I think it can be very helpful.

I think we need to look at the similarities and differences between what was good for AA many years ago and what is good for S.L.A.A. today. For AA many years ago, there was the possibility of the AA message of recovery being significantly changed by affiliation with most other organizations. However, there were no other prominent 12 Step -12 Tradition Fellowships that focused on alcohol with which to cooperate. AA and Al-Anon cooperate in many ways, but do not affiliate.

I suggest that 'S' fellowships cooperate like AA and Al-Anon cooperate, but do not affiliate. I think a joint meeting list is cooperation not affiliation.

If some 'S' meetings want to be members of more than one 'S' Fellowship, I see no harm in experimenting with this to see how it works. If it does not work, if there are serious unresolvable problems, this activity can be discontinued. I do not see cooperation of 'S' Fellowships as necessarily and always being a violation of Steps, Traditions, or Concepts in all situations. And I am not ready to predict what will work and what will not work. I am ready to support others in experimenting to see what happens. The Steps say let go of control and turn it over to HP. I think practicing the principles of the Steps as suggested in Step 12 and putting the principles of the Steps before personalities as suggested in Tradition 12, means letting meetings experiment with cooperation, being flexible about the interpretation of affiliation, and giving the green light and support to 'S' Fellowships cooperating and supporting each other and thereby carrying the message of recovery to all who suffer with issues of sex or love and are looking for recovery from problems with sex or love.

In many areas, members chose their face to face meetings by the convenience of time and location, going to whichever Fellowship has a meeting close at an available time. I think there is much to gain and very little to lose by being flexible in supporting recovery from problems with sex or love in 12 Step meetings.

I have heard of meetings having multiple affiliations with other 'S' groups or even with other philosophies. I believe that we have addressed this particular issue previously, but some seem to not be able to grasp the meaning of 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. Any two or more persons gathering together for mutual aid in recovering from sex and love addiction may call themselves an S.L.A.A. group, provided that as a group they have no other affiliation." (emphasis added). To have a group with multiple affiliations could cause much confusion on the part of any newcomer who would be receiving mixed messages about what constitutes recovery and in some cases what constitutes a bottom-line behavior. To list meetings with multiple affiliations could appear to be an endorsement of those meetings which would be a violation of Tradition 6 regarding endorsement of outside enterprise, which would include other 'S' programs. I have seen meeting lists which listed the meetings of other fellowships in addition to S.L.A.A. but they typically have some sort of non-affiliation statement and that these meetings are listed as a courtesy and not as an endorsement.

I agree with the content of the previous answer. I would also add that according to the Fifth Tradition, "Each group has but one primary purpose - to carry its message to the sex and love addict who still suffers," hence the message of S.L.A.A. This would foster unity of the fellowship, in accordance to Tradition one, and that should be very clear to any member or new potential member of the fellowship. Therefore, I think only

S.L.A.A. meetings should be listed in Websites or meeting lists for our fellowship. I understand multi-affiliation could have their use and might be beneficial for many according to varying issues and time availability, but S.L.A.A. should not express in anyway its opinion on outside issues according to Tradition 10. Although sex addiction or love addiction separately may not appear as different issues, each fellowship has a different approach and listing them together could lead to confusion about the S.L.A.A. recovery program. And finally, if an Intergroup decides, through group conscience, to advertise as such, I think that it should be considered how listing multi-affiliation groups could affect S.L.A.A. as a whole and potentially constitute a breach of Tradition 4.

This has been discussed at the board because of other issues. The tradition states that "each group is autonomous....provided there is no other affiliation." In other cases the board has suggested that a group conscience be taken about any multiple affiliations. However, the tradition is clear that an SLAA group shouldn't have any other affiliation. But each group can only decide that for themselves. There has been discussion of not listing meetings on the S.L.A.A. site or literature.

LISTING S.L.A.A. MEETINGS ON APPS

Q. During a business meeting, one of our fellows suggested to list our meeting locations on two phone applications, which would help locate our meeting. These are called "Steps Away" and "PSA support" and exists for Google and iPhone based phones. These two applications are available for free.

We wanted to check with S.L.A.A. if we have your approval to put our meeting on such apps, and if S.L.A.A. has a policy about it. We also would need an OK from the church where we rent the space for our meeting. What do you think?

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.

Thanks so much for your email. Posting your meeting information in places where people searching for meetings will see it is acceptable and encouraged in S.L.A.A. In this age of technology, what used to be newspapers and bulletin boards is now the internet and smart devices. Tradition 11 speaks of attraction, not promotion. There is much debate over what constitutes promotion on the internet, but crossing the line would be paying for a flashing banner ad on Google. I think this question would be a good one for the Steps and Traditions Committee to weigh in on. I will forward this email on to them.

This question is interesting because it is involving newer technology with phone apps. Tradition 11 speaks of attraction over promotion, which would indicate to me the use of personal testimonials, members' names, or things which would sensationalize S.L.A.A. recovery. We already advertise our meetings on public websites and even in phone books. We find signs on the sides of buses in major metropolitan areas which mention S.L.A.A., but they only send people to a website or give an information phone number. Those things aid in attraction because people cannot be attracted to something about which they are unaware. The thing which would concern me would be a safety and security concern. Could an app such as this draw unwanted attention from people who are not interested in recovery?

Basically, I do not see a problem with advertising a meeting or the fellowship. I see advertisements in the newspapers and public transportation and I believe that, when not connected to a facility, center, or personal share, it is quite fine and effective in reaching out to the sex and love addict suffering out there. However, I went to check the Steps Away app (could not find the PSA support one) and noticed that when you click on AA/NA/OA/etc. recovery to check it out, you end up in a page that gives the time and address of a meeting, which is fine, but at the bottom of the page, you have the number to a 24-hour Addiction Helpline. That would be my only concern: how this seeming connection could come in conflict with the 6th tradition, as it could seem an endorsement of a related facility or outside enterprise. In a newspaper, you might have a fellowship's ad next to an Addiction Center ad, but, usually you will have many other ads that, if related by their subjects, are not seen as being endorsements of one another. In an app, if, on each page, I see this connection with the Addiction Treatment Helpline, and it raises the question. Also, this app is done in partnership with the Recovery Project. How is it connected with S.L.A.A.?

In the end, I see that other fellowships, also considering traditions do advertise, so is there a problem real or potential? I don't know. I would be interested in knowing what the BOT would have to say about this specific closeness of advertisement on the same page.

The question of safety when advertising meeting places has always been a bit of an issue, but problems have actually been very, very rare. The ones that have occurred have mostly been a reporter or two undercover - people already in the fellowship acting out (child molesters, in particular), but an occasional rapist or inappropriate phone calls. All of these have been brief, to my knowledge, and resolved without any special action other than talking to the person involved and reminding them that illegal or harassing behavior is not protected by anonymity or privacy customs. Many meetings now have statements read at times or even at every meeting reminding people that others at the meeting may be required by law to report certain behaviors revealed at meetings. In three cases I know of personally, the "rebuke" was given with firm compassion, offers to help the individual - and the individuals simply disappeared from meetings. In one case I heard about, a police complaint was made.

As in AA, virtually all anonymity breaks come from inside. The ads can easily refer to a contact phone number, or the S.L.A.A. website, which is, after all, available to the internet universe along with meeting lists. Sexual offenders and the merely curious are not so inclined to crash a party full of people who have stopped that behavior and are helping others stop, unless they really need the recovery themselves.

In my mind, we need to protect personal anonymity, be friendly enough to anyone who walks in the doors to distinguish the "still suffering" from "invaders," put one level of separation between public notices and the

exact location of meetings locally - although we must still remember that people can find our meetings through the S.L.A.A. F.W.S. website, and there have been few and rare issues reported. Twelve step recovery is sufficiently familiar to most people at least in the U.S. now, that I do not think we have to cultivate fear - mindfulness will do nicely.

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.

The FWS News Editor is looking for articles from members all over the world, specifically your experiences in doing service in S.L.A.A. You may send them any time to:
<http://slaafws.org/contact/newseditor>

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:
November 9, 2014

February 8, 2015

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.