



1. **OPENING:** The serenity prayer was said followed by the reading of the SLAA Preamble, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.

2. **INTRODUCTION AND PROCEDURAL EXPLANATIONS:** Jacques G. (Chair) explained procedures for making formal motions. A motion must be made and seconded before discussion can take place. Someone may call the question and a vote will be taken.

Next, the issue of a delegate's eligibility for voting was raised. Jacques noted that there were concerns expressed about the six month sobriety requirement for delegates to be able to vote.

Discussion followed. One delegate argued that, by group conscience, this conference can empower every delegate to vote regardless of sobriety. He further suggested that this body set the requirements for next year's delegate and not leave it to the Board. Jacques responded by saying that the Board did not set that requirement. Rather, it had been set by a vote of the members present at last year's Conference in San Francisco. The six month sobriety requirement is a long tradition in this program. Group conscience consistently supports the six month sobriety requirement.

Another delegate pointed out that the BY-LAWS were sent to him in plenty of time and he knew that he needed six months of sobriety to be his group delegate.

A point was made that we need to pay more attention to our traditions and that it is the group's responsibility to honor those traditions.

A question was raised. Can a non-delegate participate? Jacques said that, according to the Conference Charter, two possibilities exist: (1) a person who represents a group but doesn't

meet the sobriety requirement may speak at the meeting; but, (2) only a person with the appropriate sobriety requirement may both speak and vote.

A delegate said that clearly, 1) those with six month of sobriety can vote, 2) that those from new groups only need six weeks of sobriety to vote (according to the BY-LAWS). She further suggested that those who didn't know about the six month sobriety requirement but were sent as delegates be allowed to vote. Finally, those uncertain about their sobriety and clarity of thought need only relay the vote their group gave. Jacques said he supported this view and suggested that this important issue go before the conference charter committee for discussion and resolution in time for next year's conference.

Introductions—Here delegates stated their names, the group they represent and their eligibility to vote. Jacques noted that each Board member also has a vote. The question was raised about the right of intergroups to send delegates to the conference. A motion was made and carried to refer this question to the Charter Conference Committee for resolution at next year's conference. The issue arose whether groups for co-dependents can send voting representatives. Jacques said that in spite of the name

they are considered sex and love addict groups.

Finally, 77 members present qualified as voting delegates or Board Members.

3. **AGENDA FORMATION:** (Agenda changes require a $\frac{2}{3}$ "yes" vote).

Ross proposed adding a piece of literature to the agenda which was put together over the last year by the New England Intergroup Literature Committee. It is called Freedom From the Patterns of Sex and Love Addiction. This proposal was accepted and added to the agenda as Item 5 C (Votes: 58 for, 17 opposed, 2 abstentions).

A concern was expressed that accepting a grant to publish Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous violated the seventh tradition. Jacques said no one could speak to this tonight because there was no one present who had been part of that process.

Another concern arose. Why can't intergroups and treatment centers purchase books at the same cost as the bookstores which get a 40% discount. A vote to put this on the agenda failed.

A proposal to form a committee to consider changing the work "Fellowship" in our name because of sexist overtones also failed. (Vote: 32 for, 28 against, 17 abstentions).

1987-1988 ANNUAL REPORT

Fellowship-wide Services, Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous

This report is made to the members of the Augustine Fellowship, Inc., Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous at the annual meeting of the membership held on May 7, 1988 in Boston, Massachusetts. It is the fourth such annual meeting and covers a period of 16 months, from January 1987 to May 1988.

The Fellowship-Wide Services Office (FWS), acting under the guidance of its Board of Directors (also known as the Board of Trustees) have provided the following services to Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous (SLAA) members and groups and to the community at large:

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

1) Publications

- translations into Spanish and German of program literature; negotiations for their publication taking place.
- How to Start a Group service literature created
- Newsletters - 5 issues
- permission to reprint various program literature considered and acted upon
- National Directory published

2) Requests for Information

- mail requests have gone from 10 to 30 per week
- phone requests have gone from 0 to 30 per week.

3) Prison Outreach

- a correspondence program was established

4) Public Information

- letters were sent to Dear Abbey, Ask Beth, and Ann Landers

5) Volunteers were recruited and helped to

- send out quarterly bulk mailings to members,
- fill mail orders,
- respond to requests for information
- redesign the office facilities,
- serve on the Conference Committee.

6) An open house was held to celebrate SLAA's 11th anniversary and to recruit FWS Volunteers.

7) The Conference Literature Committee developed new literature for conference approval

8) Organized a fellowship-wide conference

FISCAL AND CORPORATE

9) Board of Trustees meetings were held on 2/7/87, 5/2/87, 8/8/87, 11/14/87, 2/13/88

10) By-laws were revised to comply with Massachusetts state law (the incorporation state).

11) Literature sales in fiscal 1987 (ending September 30, 1987) were \$ 70,000. In this fiscal year sales for the first quarter were \$ 15,593 and in the second quarter \$32,852 for a total of \$48,445.

12) Contributions in fiscal 1987 (ending September 30, 1987) were \$ 4,507. In this fiscal year, contributions for the first quarter were \$1,264 and for the second quarter \$ 2,252 for a total of \$3,516.

13) Accounting Services were engaged.

14) An Office Manager was recruited and hired.

15) A proposed budget for 1988 was established by the Board.

16) Office operations

- The FWS Office is now open 10-5:30 Monday through Friday rather than part-time, as before.
- It is also now possible to leave messages on the answer machine.
- Physical environment and work ergonomics at the FWS office were improved to make increased work load more efficient and less stressful.
- A copier and computer were acquired.
- UPS service for orders over \$ 50 was arranged.
- An Office Operating Committee of the Board was established.

17) Implemented the delegate structure voted upon at the 1987 Conference.

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A proposal to consider forming a committee for young addicts (like Alateen) was defeated (47 in favor).

A proposal to form a committee to establish contacts with other 12-step groups for sex addicts failed.

An inquiry about creating SLAA sobriety medallions (chips) should be addressed to the Literature Committee.

A request to make bulk literature orders smaller and establish a West Coast Office Literature Branch should both be addressed to the Operating Committee.

Summary: There is one agenda change: adding a piece of Literature generated by NE Intergroup Lit. Com. as Item 5 C.

4. REPORT FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

A. 1987 Retrospect of the Board was read by Bea K. (see attached).

B. Financial Reports--Bea K.

C. Presentation of Revised By-Laws -- Jacques G.

At its February meeting the Board Revised the BY-LAWS to better meet Massachusetts requirements and better reflect the way we actually do business. Jacques pointed out the following changes: There used to be one class of members -- those with six months or more of continuous sobriety. Now there will be two types of members-- 1) everyone who has a willingness to stop acting out (which better reflects our Third Tradition); 2) delegate members. We (the Board) also tried to incorporate the Conference Charter in our new BY-LAWS. Article XIII of the BY-LAWS now states that the Board

can amend but cannot make any major changes that would fundamentally affect the program or the Fellowship. So, the Board must consider this before making any changes. The power to change the BY-LAWS actually rests with the Conference. Also, the BY-LAWS which were sent to the delegates this year are only the first part of what will be a two-part package. This first part deals with legal issues. The second part, which will be presented next year, will focus more on the traditions, steps and guidelines.

There was a motion to accept the report. All were in favor.

5. CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. 1989 Ad Hoc Delegate Committee:

Peter explained that he and Bea were the Ad Hoc Committee to set up the delegate structure. Previously, anyone who walked into the business meeting and had six months of self-defined sobriety could vote. In the 1987 Conference a decision was made to set up a delegate structure. This year all groups were invited to send delegates. But, when we exceed 100 delegates or 250 registered groups, we will have to go to some form of area representation since our BY-LAWS permit only 100 delegates.

The issue of financing delegates' travel expenses arose. Jacques said there was no guarantee that funds would be available in the future and recommended that delegates suggest to their home groups that money be set aside each week to finance their delegate at next year's Conference.

Some confusion regarding the length of a delegate's term came up. At present the BY-LAWS indicate that the term is established by the group, not by FWS. Jacques said he

hopes that this will be considered by next year's Conference Charter Committee.

B. 1987 conference Literature Committee -- Bruce M.

Bruce presented six pieces of literature put together collaboratively by SLAA people both inside and outside the Literature Committee. All the work sessions were conducted as 12-Step SLAA meetings. He pointed out that there were typing and proofreading errors. He reminded everyone that they were voting on the pieces, not on the formats.

Jacque explained that a "yes" vote means the piece becomes conference-approved literature, although minor changes and corrections could still be made. It would then be the responsibility of the Board to publish that literature. A "no" vote means that it goes to next year's Literature Committee for reconsideration allowing a wider group conscience to emerge. A separate vote was taken for each piece of literature. All six pieces and the and the literature from NE Intergroup Literature Committee received a "no" vote. Jacques urged that those interested in this literature join next year's Literature Committee where these pieces will be reconsidered.

(Motion was made and carried at this point to continue the meeting until 8:30 p.m.)

6. ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

The three nominations received in written form were passed out to the delegates. There were three positions open on the 9-member Board. Nominations were accepted from the floor. Each nominee presented a brief statement of her/his qualifications. Delegates

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were asked to vote for three people; the one receiving the most will have a three-year term, etc. Jacque felt the Board should reflect the diversity of the program as much as possible. Location, age, gender and sexual orientation ought to be reflected. This is simply a recommendation. Jacque mentioned that his term and Bea's will end in 1989, Peter's in 1990 and Hannalore and Odus' in 1991. Charlie's resignation, which leaves a one-year vacancy will be considered at tomorrow's Board Meeting. (The Board can also appoint people to vacancies).

The following people accepted nominations from the floor: Bob K. (San Fran), Gordon P. (MA), Anita F. (Berkeley, CA), John M. (Phil., PA), Susan (CA), Debbie F. (New Haven, CT), Bill S. (FLA), Dean S. (San Fran./LA). Also nominated in writing were Jim (San Fran) and Roger (not present).

The following were elected: Bill S. (Term Expires 1991), John M. (1990), Debbie F. (1990).

7. 1988 CONFERENCE COMMITTEES:

A. Literature Committee--will consider literature, distribute it, make changes, and present it to next year's conference.

B. Public Information Committee--considers public information issues concerning SLAA on the national level.

C. Prison Outreach Committee--addresses the needs of sex and love addicts confined to prisons or mental institutions on the personal and institutional level. (Starting meetings, finding sponsors, working with prison officials).

D. Conference Charter Committee--considers any changes to the Conference Charter.

(At this point delegates formed the committees, elected chairs, and set meeting times to discuss goals and a budget).

A list of members should be sent to the FWS office by each committee.

E. Brief Reports from the New Committees

Chairpersons came forward:

Conference Charter Committee--(?)

Prison Outreach Committee--Richard Y. (Co-chair), Steve (Co-chair)

Public Information Committee--Dean S. (Chair)

Literature Committee--Susan (Co-chair), A.I.S. (Co-chair)

8. 1989 FWS CONFERENCE PREPARATION:

All delegates were urged to make a report of this Business Meeting to their home groups.

The Board of Directors will meet Sunday, May 8 to consider possible 1989 Conference sites.

9. CLOSING: Serenity Prayer

Many thanks to all for their 12-Step work which helps us carry the SLAA message of hope and recovery to those who still suffer.

SLAA ADDRESS BOOK

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group, #0488
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(619) 291-7450

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tine Fellowship (SLAA)
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(215) 271-003

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SLAA, Pittsburgh Group
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INDIANA

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46222-0625
(317) 736-5552
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S.L.A.A. of Omaha, Inc.
PO Box 3721
Omaha, Nebraska 68103
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NEW ENGLAND

SLAA New England
Intergroup
PO Box 1964
Boston, MA 02105
(617) 625-7961

Intergroups and local
area contacts may help
carry the message by
sending the following
information to FWS:

Name _____
PO Box _____
City _____
State _____
Zip _____
Answering Machine
() _____

Thank You

Send to or call:
FWS
PO Box 119
New Town Branch
Boston MA 02258
(617) 332-1845

Summary: May 9 Board Meeting

Seven board members were present: Bea K., Peter P., Jacque G., Odus L., Debbie F., John M., and Bill S., along with Beth C., FWS Office Manager. One Board seat is still vacant and Hannelore F. could not be present. Jacque chaired.

Officers' Reports

Jacque clarified requirements of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the President, Treasurer, and Clerk of a corporation.

Beth read the Office Manager's Report.

Committee Reports

Bea reported on the Operating Committee. In March a UPS account was opened; use of temporary help was discussed, as well as expenses, payroll deductions, and the estimated budget. The computer has arrived; an inventory taken; and possible changes in our printing services are being considered. FWS is also thinking about larger quarters. A review policy for the Office Manager's position was adopted in April. The OM will receive a raise in May. The workload of all positions at FWS continues to be reviewed: contracting a bookkeeping service seems in order; answering phone calls, important as this is, should be

handled so as not to prevent the OM from assuring the efficient operation of the office.

No reports from the Public Information or Legal Committees.

Bea reports for the Conference Committee that a debriefing will be held May 17 to discuss experiences to date and make recommendations for next year's Conference. 300 people from 20 states and 3 countries registered and paid for the conference. Recommendations will be made to the Board about distribution of the work-shop tapes.

No report from the Literature Committee, but a comment that literature being presented for approval at next year's Conference should be distributed more widely and much sooner.

Old Business

FWS is in the process of contracting with a publisher in Germany for the German translation of the SLAA text. Hannelore is the liaison between the publisher and the Board.

New Business

Some board procedures were modified: the position of chairperson rotates to a new board member every six months. Board

meetings are now bi-monthly instead of quarterly. The chair will generate the agenda of the next meeting by phone calls and a "pre-agenda" that is mailed circularly to all board members and returned to the chair.

Board Committees were formed, each with a Board member designated as chairperson and at least one other Board member assisting.

The Committees and their members: Operating Committee -- Bea (Chair), Peter, John, local persons; Public Information Committee -- Odus (Chair), Debbie, Peter. Legal Committee -- Jacque (Chair), Richard. Literature Committee -- Bill (Chair), Odus, Bea, (Hannelore will be asked). Nominating Committee -- Peter and Odus (Prospective board members must contact this committee.) Newsletter Committee -- John (Chair), Bea. Conference Committee -- Jacque (Chair), Bill.

Board Meetings for 1988-89: 1:00 to 3:00 ET, Saturday: July 16, September 17, November 19, January 21, March 18. The Annual Meeting will be held the weekend of April 29 and 30, the time of the 1989 Conference. The Board agreed that the Conference should be held the weekend before Mothers' Day, usually the first weekend in May.

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Please Register Your Group With FWS

FWS needs to have accurate information in order to:

- put people in touch with the Program
- get S.L.A.A program news to your group
- determine and prepare for the delegates to the 1989 Conference.

Please send us the NAME of your group, TIME(S) and LOCATION(S) of your

meeting(s), a MAILING ADDRESS for group mail, a contact PHONE NUMBER, and the name of your GENERAL CHAIRPERSON, your 1988 CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE, or other contact person.

In a separate entry, please indicate WHETHER you want your group listed in the S.L.A.A International Directory and HOW you want your group and its meetings listed (i.e. group name, meeting times and locations, contact person, contact address and phone number).

From the Editor . . .

Dear Friends in Recovery:

People in recovery often refer to the blessings of recovery as "surpassing their wildest dreams." I have to say that for me they exceed my very ability to dream.

A Higher Power nudged me a few years ago, and got me to one of these *other* meetings. I went with the idea that I was just a member in good standing of another 12-step program who had a little problem with this *other* character defect. I expected to spend a few weeks "cleaning up my act," so to speak, and then I would go back to my *real* 12-step program as though nothing had happened.

So how is it that the Higher Power has me serving as a Board member and editing the FWS Newsletter -- four and a half years later? Well, accepting mystery and operating on faith is what recovery is about for me most of the time. I find myself asking fewer questions and getting amazed more and more, a day at a time.

It's Your Newsletter

One miracle is that the Program can get an addict with ego to match to edit a publication which values not at all the opinions of the editor. Indeed the editor's sole job is to get the periodical to reflect as accurately as possible the growing group conscience and consciousness of the SLAA Community.

Please work to make sure that our Newsletter always expresses our Program principles, not the personalities of a few -- however dedicated they may be. Send your thoughts, experiences, reflections, suggestions for discussion, and opinions about issues that affect the Program.

Members have already mentioned two concerns which might merit thorough discussion in a future issue of the FWS Newsletter. They can also be considered for the 1988 Annual Conference agenda.

Are We Sexist ?

I have received written comments about the perceived use of sexist language in program literature. Members have also noted that women have had a difficult time finding and being accepted by the Program in some areas. Others have said that mixed meetings end up being heavily weighted in favor of men's issues. What do you think? YOU are the formers of program conscience and consciousness. Please write! Don't worry about perfect form -- we'll dot the i's and cross the t's if you will just send us your thoughts.

How Well Do We Carry the Message ?

Members noted that at the 1988 FWS Conference, few, if any, of the more than 300 persons attending appeared to be or claimed to be Black American, Native American, Asian, or Hispanic. If this addiction is an equal opportunity destroyer, do we need to do something more effective to carry the SLAA message to other sufferers than white Americans? What do you think? What do you suggest?

Please send send your suggestions and opinions on these issues, as well as your reflections and thoughts on recovery and the Program to:

FWS NEWSLETTER
PO Box 119
New Town Branch
Boston MA 02258

It is understood, of course, that publication of the opinions of individual members does not imply endorsement of them by the FWS Newsletter, Fellowship-Wide Services, or Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous as a whole.

With gratitude for the opportunity to recover through service, I am

Yours sincerely,

John M., Editor

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A motion was passed that all Board members' terms end at an Annual Conference.

Next year's Conference site has not been selected, pending more detailed proposals from areas interested in hosting it. New Haven, South Florida, Sonoma County, Berkeley, Oakland, and Philadelphia have expressed interest. The matter will be taken up at the July Board meeting.

Charlie has resigned from the Board and a member fairly local to Boston is being sought as a replacement.