



The Augustine Fellowship, S.L.A.A.,
Fellowship-Wide Services, Inc.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES 17 MAY 2025

Time: 4:00 a.m. UTC, 3.5-hour meeting

<https://www.worldtimebuddy.com/pst-to-utc-converter>

1) Opening Matters

- Check-Ins/Sobriety Statements – Phoenix G. (TX), Rick B. (FL.), Jack F. (AUS), Jeff R. (WA), John S. (CA), Patrick D. (UK), Ari F. (NJ), Chris D. (CA)
- Regrets: None

a) Readings:

- ~~Twelve Concepts – Concept 5 – (Non-Chair Member with most seniority) – Phoenix G.~~

- ~~Twelve Traditions Tradition 5 – (Member next most seniority on the BOT) – Rick B.~~

- ~~BOT Preamble – Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous is a Twelve Step, Twelve Tradition oriented fellowship based on the model pioneered by Alcoholics Anonymous. The only qualification for S.L.A.A. membership is a desire to stop living out a pattern of sex and love addiction. S.L.A.A. is supported entirely through contributions of its membership and is free to all who need it. The BOT meeting is a business meeting. We are the business arm of our recovery organization. Respecting the Second Tradition, we need to put individual feelings aside when we work for the BOT and focus on what serves the Fellowship best. This is a job. We are trusted servants. We abuse that trust when we do not act professionally in discharging the business of the Fellowship. – (Member with the third most seniority on the BOT) – Jack F.~~

Start Recording (*9) and turn on transcript

2) Assign roles

- a) Facilitator – **Chris D.**
- b) Record Keeper – **James B.**
- c) Timekeeper – **Phoenix G.**
- d) Spiritual Reminder – **All**

3) Announcements

- a) Mollie Cullinane is unavailable to review any edits to our bylaws. Pam contacted another attorney who advertises they deal with non-profits, Lance Geppert, and

his estimate to review the CBC motions to ensure they're in line with TX law was \$300, so Pam sent him the information. Will let you know.

- b) 82 days until the ABM starts.
- c) Membership survey has already had more responses than our 2018 survey!
- d) ONR states that they've wired back our partial refund from 2024. Will let you know.
- e) BDC is looking for a whistleblower investigator.
- f) Time to review Board Committee Mission statements for ABM.
- g) The F.W.S. payroll schedule is changing from biweekly to weekly. No additional cost and preferred by the F.W.S. Team.
- h) James B has agreed to be the recordkeeper for the 2025 ABM.

4) Approval of Today's Agenda - (BOT Agenda 17 May 2025)

- a) CHRC Bundle will be discussed in 3 weeks.
Action Item (Patrick D) Figure out the selling price based on cost of production.
Approved, no objections.

5) Approval of last Month's Minutes - BOT Minutes updates as of 15 May 2025

- a) 13 July 2024 (Being worked on)
- b) 1 February (Available for email review)
- c) 1 March (Available for email review)
- d) 5 April 2025 (Available for email review)
- e) 19 April (Available for email review)
- f) 3 May (Being worked on)

BUSINESS

REPORT: (Rick B) Who will be the Tech Czar?

- a) Dave W will be an understudy for John D at this year's ABM.

ELEVATED PRIORITY:

1. Vote on Non-BOT Board Committee Members.

MOTION: (Rick B./John S.) For David W to be a member of the BCTC:
Approved.

2. The BOT approved changes to compensation for F.W.S. **Vote:** 8-0-0.
Approved.

3. **IFD/MOTION:** Treasurer presentation of the IRS 990 Form.
 - Jeff will put in an email for review.

4. **IFD/MOTION:** Treasurer presentation of the Expense Approval Matrix.
 - Some things that were budgeted for can be approved by the Executive Director, next level up can be approved by the Treasurer and the Board Chair, next level would be the BFC, then anything beyond that has to be approved by the Board.

- There are separate tables for things that were budgeted for and things that were not budgeted for.
- The tables represent what level authority is needed to approve certain kinds of expenditures without needing to have Board approval.
- Asking the Board to approve columns C, G and E. of the Matrix that shows certain expenditures would be able to be paid without the consent of the Board.
- The BFC reviewed the recommendations and voted unanimously to send them to the Board. Would replace the 2016 approval matrix.

MOTION: (Jeff R./Rick B.) To approve the new Expense Approval Matrix for 2025 drafted by the Treasurer and approved by the BFC.

Vote: (7-0-1), Approved.

5. **MOTION:** (Chris D/2nd Jack F.) That the BOT hold an Interim 3-hour meeting on 2 August 2025 at 11:00 p.m. UTC.

Vote: (7-0-1), Approved.

6. **MOTION:** (Chris D./Jeff R., 9 May 2025) Edit the Conference Service Manual Safety Statement for the 2025 ABC/M to be as shown below (Google Doc link)

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vCyq22coc_X7_hTkwScX_jt11dzOVgMpzGPA9LgTzc0/edit?usp=sharing

Chapter Three: At the ABC/M Safety Statement (2025 Virtual ABC/M)

The Board cares about the safety of all members of the Fellowship and is prepared to take immediate and appropriate action if any individual or group feels threatened during the 2025 Virtual ABC/M. Our group endeavors to provide a safe meeting place for all attendees and encourages each person to contribute to fostering a secure, respectful, and welcoming environment. As our Traditions remind us, responsibility for the formation and operation of a group resides with the group conscience. Therefore, we ask that group members and others refrain from any behavior compromising the safety of others. Also please take any precautions you feel necessary to ensure your personal safety. If you feel your safety is in jeopardy, or a situation breaches the law, the individuals involved should take appropriate actions. Calling the proper authorities does not violate any Traditions and is encouraged when someone has broken the law or endangered the safety of another person. We ask that all comments, chats, and communications during the ABC/M be respectful and free from threats, insults, or personal attacks toward any attendee. Any attendee may call a Spiritual Reminder at any time. If necessary, we have set up a special breakout room to discuss issues with attendees who are deemed to be overly disruptive to the General Assembly and the work of this Fellowship. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to modify and update this Safety Statement.

Vote: (7-0-1), Approved.

7. **IFD:** Definition of Groups for ABM Registration purposes.

Round Robin:

- Five meeting intergroups get one delegate to send to the ABM as do intergroups with less than five meetings.
- A “Lone Group” also gets one delegate so that remote areas are represented, however, some in the Fellowship are including alternate types of meetings as a way to gain more delegates to represent them. Such as using WhatsApp groups to inflate their numbers to gain an additional delegate. NOTE: The term “Lone Group” is not in the By-Laws or the CSM.
- Tradition Three: Any two or more persons gathered together for mutual aid in recovering from sex and love addiction may call themselves an S.L.A.A. group. So the question lies in what types of groups can be considered for ABM Registration purposes.
- Since we’re using groups as a proxy for size, WhatsApp groups could skew the data. Not about defining what a group is but defining what the proxy is for sending a delegate.
- Not in favor of WhatsApp to be registered with FWS since they do not have the avenue for group conscience.
- Need some clarity about what constitutes a group. Last year there were some WhatsApp groups claiming to be a “Lone Group”.
- Believe the CCC, BABMPC, or possibly CBC should be the ones’ to take up this topic.
- Have no problem with in-person, Zoom or the IRC. These seem very much like a meeting. Believe this should be brought before the Conference.
- Believe it should be a Conference level decision because it will have consequences, and the Conference would be responsible for that.
- Like the idea of adding the formats that are accepted by FWS for what formats count toward a delegate number. The Board is responsible for this decision as it affects how many delegates can come to the ABM.
- As a result of last year’s ABM it was asked that the Board come up with a solution.

8. **MOTION:** (Rick B./Chris D., 27 April 2025) Approve the edited version of Bylaws Article V, Section 5 for submittal to the ARS.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1z_du7QsBVqYi7yRuqLnznWMPewfv08hD/edit

- Reiterates that Groups have to be registered with FWS.
- Clarifies the word “Conference” as to what conference is being referenced.
- Added that a participant needs to know how to vote to be seated for voting at the Virtual ABM.

Consensus to table.

9. **IFD:** Determine BOT Comments on motions/IFDs for 2025 ABM and who will make those comments (third agenda distributed 23 June 2025). Quotes below the description are the comments determined by the 2023-2024 BOT. Last year's comments were:

- a. "The Board of Trustees look forward to hearing what the conference has to say on this IFD."
- b. "The Board of Trustees support this motion and look forward to hearing what the conference has to say on it."
- c. "The Board of Trustees support this motion."
- d. "Texas law regarding Indemnification is an in-depth topic and this motion has not been reviewed by a lawyer licensed in Texas. The Board of Trustees seek clarification before we can support this Motion."

25o16/19-02 - Motion: That the "HOW Step and Sponsorship Guide" be approved and published.

- Consensus that the Board supports new literature but does not want to get into the debate about the HOW program.
- If members like it and want to use it, that's great.

"The Board of Trustees look forward to hearing what the conference has to say on this IFD."

25o17/23-23 - Motion: That Authors/Writers of Literature submitted for Conference Approval or review by IFD, must confirm along with their literature submission that they meet a sobriety requirement of 2 continuous years of self defined sobriety, along with the definition of their self defined sobriety.

Round Robin:

- Understand the concept of wanting to be sure that it's sober people submitting literature, but it's not the Board's place to set the definition of sobriety for the conference nor decide if a piece of literature is helpful or not.
- The article makes some powerful points but it would be arbitrary to set the definition of sobriety limits. Would be fine with the statement that "The Board has nothing to say on this matter."
- Would go with something like "The Board does not agree with this motion."
- This motion gives the Board the potential to say "This really doesn't seem appropriate." Why is 2 years the right number? If the literature is well written it's not the sobriety that's important on this.
- Some people that help write literature make some very powerful input because their memory is fresh from just coming out of a bad situation.
- Maybe the Board should stay neutral and let it be completely up to the conference.
- There is already a great process in place for submitting literature. Believe we should make a statement that the Board does not agree.

- The Board is in place to write good policy not to arbitrate sobriety for the conference.

Vote: “We place our trust in the LCEP process as a reflection of group conscience and do not support this motion.” Approved by Consensus.

25n18/25-18 - IFD: This IFD seeks Conference approval of S.L.A.A. Hopes and Promises to become one of S.L.A.A.’s Core Documents.

Round Robin:

- The “Daytona Promises” were excerpted from one of the stories in the Basic Text.
- Don’t see the need for another Core Document.

Vote: Board response: “The Board of Trustees looks forward to hearing what the Conference has to say.” Approved by Consensus.

25n19/25-19 - By-Laws Motion: Proposed change is to add a Section 5 under Article III.

Action Item: (Rick B.) To submit to the ARS to correct the format of the Motion.

Board Response Tabled: No objections.

25n20/25-20 - By-Laws Motion: The general business sessions of the Annual Business Conference, called the Annual Business Meeting, shall be the Annual Business Meeting of the Corporation.

Round Robin:

- Needed to conform with Texas law that we define the Board of Trustees to be the Board of Directors.
- When the By-Laws were written in Massachusetts the word Trustee was appropriate, but in order to comply with Texas law it needs to be changed. However, the way this motion is written it needs to go back to the committee that submitted it for the correct format so that it makes sense.
- The Board cannot comment on this as written.

Action Item: (Rick B.) To submit to the ARS to correct the format of the motion.

Board Response Tabled: No objections.

Meeting ended and below was tabled.

ITEM NUMBER	MOTION/IFD	DESCRIPTION
<u>25o10/23-04</u>	<u>By-Laws Motion</u>	<u>ARTICLE X: Specify what type of members may vote to approve indemnification.</u> <u>“ Texas law regarding Indemnification is an in-depth topic and this motion has not been reviewed by a lawyer licensed in Texas. The</u>

		Board of Trustees seek clarification before we can support this Motion." Awaiting attorney's feedback.
25o11/24-06	By Laws Motion	ARTICLE X: indicate that FWS "Trustees" are "Directors" as defined by Texas law. "The Board of Trustees look forward to hearing what the conference has to say on this Motion." Awaiting attorney's feedback.
25o12/24-07	By Laws Motion	ARTICLE VI: indicate that FWS "Trustees" are "Directors" as defined by Texas law. "The Board of Trustees look forward to hearing what the conference has to say on this Motion." Awaiting attorney's feedback.
25o16/23-13	IFD—May be converted to Motion	Create a Conference Technology Committee. Will be removed: Create A Conference Technology Committee IFD has been removed from the Agenda at the submitters request.
25o17/23-16	IFD—May be converted to Motion	Adopt a proposed safety statement as a Core Document. Will be removed: Dropped from the Agenda as there has been no response after multiple attempts to make contact with the 3 submitters.
25o15/23-12	IFD—May be converted to Motion Changed to Motion	Does the "50th Anniversary Basic Text" draft reflect "light editing?" Group Conscience: To Print a 50th Anniversary Basic Text Second Edition Basic Text".
25o16/19-02	Motion	That the 'HOW Step and Sponsorship Guide' be approved and published.
25o17/23-23	Motion	That Authors/Writers of Literature submitted for Conference Approval or review by IFD, must confirm along with their literature submission that they meet a sobriety requirement of 2 continuous years of self defined sobriety, along with the definition of their self defined sobriety.
25n18/25-18	IFD	This IFD seeks Conference approval of S.L.A.A. Hopes and Promises to become one of S.L.A.A.'s Core Documents.
25n19/25-19	By-Laws Motion	Proposed change is to add a Section 5 under Article III. Membership.
25n20/25-20	By-Laws Motion	The general business sessions of the Annual Business Conference, called the Annual Business Meeting, shall be the Annual Business Meeting of the Corporation.

REGULAR PRIORITY:

- j) **MOTION:** All F.W.S outreach materials must be within seven years of board's approval. (Jack F., 27 Aug 2024)
- k) **MOTION:** To make the F.W.S. office update all conference committees contact us pages with the new chairs & bot liaisons within four weeks from the ABC/M. (Jack F., 8 Sept 2024)
- l) **IFD:** please add board committee information getting posted to F.W.S. site with descriptions and/or applications. (Ari F., 9 Oct 2024)
- m) **MOTION:** All future policies be drafted using the term "persons" and remove all pronoun references. Current policies will incorporate 'persons' terminology and remove all pronoun references when they are next revised. (Chris/Ari, 21 Oct 2024)
- n) **MOTION:** Approve the CHRC Healthy Relationship Bundle, proposed by the CHRC, for sale on the FWS website. (Phoenix G., 30 Oct 2024)
- o) **MOTION:** The Executive Director has the authority to make non-substantive changes to S.L.A.A. policies to ensure consistency, clarity, and alignment without requiring prior approval from the Board of Trustees (BOT). Non-substantive changes are edits that do not alter the intent, meaning, or fundamental provisions of a policy. Examples include: Correcting typographical errors, grammatical issues, or formatting inconsistencies and updating references to addresses or committee titles, for example. The Executive Director will notify the BOT of any non-substantive changes at the next scheduled BOT meeting or before. A record of all non-substantive changes will be maintained and made available for review. (Chris/John, 18 Nov 2024)
- p) **IFD:** Endowment fund donation maximums?
- q) **IFD:** 50th anniversary merchandise.
- r) **IFD:** Errors and Omissions insurance for BOT non-officers?
- s) **MOTION:** Fellowship-Wide Services discontinues the practice of providing Spanish booklets and pamphlets for free. Instead, F.W.S. will commence to sell these items on the F.W.S. website. (Patrick/John, 16 April 2025)
- t) **MOTION:** Review the BHRPC approved Policy for W/ITC on Board Committees and Approve for the Employee handbook. (Rick/Chris, 14 May 2025)
- u) **MOTION:** Review the BHRPC approved Policy for GM/ED on Board Committees and Approve for the Employee handbook. (Rick/Chris, 14 May 2025)
- v) **IFD:** Gift, thank you gesture for John D 2024 and 2025 Virtual ABC/M
- w) **IFD:** Gift, thank you gesture for James B to be record keeper 2025 Virtual ABC/M, (Including reimbursement for his observer registration)

Stop Recording (*9) and turn off transcript

Closing Matters:

- a. **Check-outs:** Phoenix G. (TX), Rick B. (FL.), Jack F. (AUS), Jeff R. (WA), John S. (CA), Patrick D. (UK), Ari F. (NJ), Chris D. (CA)

Closing Prayer:

Higher Power- make me worthy to serve You through this Fellowship and the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. Help me to be generous with my time and effort, to

give without counting the cost, to give back wholly for what I have so freely received without looking for any reward, other than that of knowing I have done your will. Through my service, may I give hope and peace to those who still suffer. – (Member with the least seniority on the BOT) – Ari F.

Meeting Schedule for CY 2024-2025 (Central Time, All 3 hours)

24 Aug 24 — Special/BOT Orientation	7 Sep 2024	5 Oct 2024
2 Nov 2024	7 Dec 2024	4 Jan 2025
1 Feb 2025	1 Mar 2025	5 Apr 2025
19 April 2025 7:00 a.m. UTC	3 May 2025 11:00 p.m. UTC	17 May 2025 4:00 a.m. UTC
7 Jun 2025 7:00 a.m. UTC	21 June 2025 7:00 a.m. UTC	5 Jul 2025 12:00 p.m. UTC Jeff chairing
19 July 2025 4:00 a.m. UTC (on 20 July)	2 Aug 2025 11:00 p.m. UTC	