



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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

19 April 2025

Time: 7:00 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

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) ONR charged us again and Phoenix reached out. They're supposed to refund it but we haven't received the 2024 partial refund and Pam continues to reach out.
- b) BDC is looking for a whistleblower investigator.
- c) BABMPC is looking for a recordkeeper for the 2025 ABC/M.
- d) Rita H. is pulling back a bit from service. She has been S.L.A.A.'s informal archivist for years. I asked the office to look into shipping her archive (50 or so banker's boxes) from her home near Montreal to San Antonio.
- e) Dave has purchased the server and will be installing it next week.
- f) Pam will be on vacation next Friday thru Monday.
- g) The CSM Revision Committee has chosen not to update the CSM for the 2025 conference year.

4) Approval of Today's Agenda - (*BOT Agenda 19 April 2025*)

No objections - Approved

5) Approval of last Month's Minutes - *BOT Minutes:*

- a) *13 July 2024* (Rick sent me the audio and I forwarded it to Jack on 10 April 2025 for James, if he can do it. Thanks, Rick!)
- b) *4 January 2025*
- c) *1 February 2025*
- d) *1 March 2025*

- e) 4 April 2025
– **Approval of all minutes Tabled for further review –**

6) Monthly Action Items

- a) Forward the approved BOT Minutes to the ED for posting to the website – BOT Secretary

BUSINESS

ELEVATED PRIORITY:

- a) Vote on Non-BOT Board Committee Members. (none for vote)

Point of clarifications on how to populate committees for next conference year:

- BCTC lacked a member so Dave W of the BTC was asked since their paperwork was already on file and so the committee would have 3 members. Also asked Dave C to attend to get some things done that are needed before the ABM.
 - Before next Conference year, I would like to pre approve and populate Board committees instead of waiting until after the ABM.
 - Cannot pre-approve applicants for upcoming year.
 - Could get applications and have things set up in the Dropbox so the next Board would have all the steps needed to approve new applicants.
 - Board Committee Mission Statements.
 - CSM revision committee has chosen not to update the CSM for the 2025 conference year so the Board committee and Conference committee mission statements will not be updated. Would like to have something inserted into the Digital binders.
 - Create a list of interested members and forward on to the new chair of the committee.
 - Mission statement is always on the Board annual report.
- b) **MOTION:** Rescind approval for this motion approved on 1 March 2025:
- Motion: To authorize 5 full scholarships for international attendees and 10 full scholarships for international or domestic attendees using the financial assistance request. Scholarships should be limited to one per intergroup.
 - Motion by: Ari F. Seconded: Jack F. **Vote:** 8-0-0, Unanimous via email.
 - **Motion to rescind:** (Chris D. / Rick B.) **Vote:** 8-0-0 Passed unanimously.
- c) **MOTION:** To authorize 5 full scholarships for international attendees and 10 full scholarships for international or domestic attendees using the financial assistance request **on a first come, first served basis for the 2025 Annual Business Conference/Meeting only**. Scholarships should be limited to one per intergroup. (Chris D. / Jack F. - 18 April 2025) **Vote:** 8-0-0 Passed unanimously.
- d) **IFD:** Determine BOT Comments on motions/IFDs for 2025 ABM and who will make those comments (second agenda distributed to Fellowship May 4 and third, June 23,

2025). Quotes below the description are the comments determined by the 2023-2024 BOT.

- ABM Agenda as read from the 1st agenda.
- Read Motion/IFD, Intent, Requirement, discuss what to respond.
- Consider that we are not just giving personal opinions, but rather that our statements represent the Board.

25o01/22-01 IFD: Discuss the proposed Second Edition of the Basic Text, “book” portion (everything except the personal stories). - “The Board of Trustees look forward to hearing what the conference has to say on this IFD.”

Round Robin:

- If the comments are put in there now the delegates can take them back to their groups and we can save time at the ABM.
- The Conference looks for feedback from the Board but if we give our comments to the ARS ahead of time then we can't go to the microphone.
- Like the response as stated - prefer that the Board stay neutral.
- Board member feedback is important but the Board should stay neutral on this subject.
- Believe this IFD will be a contentious subject so the Board should stay neutral on this.
- Important to stay neutral in service.
- Neutral about whether to make the statement in person at the ABM or submit to the ARS. Fine with the statement.
- has due diligence been put into the writing of the suggested edition.
- Is there any disagreement to this statement from the Board? No.

MOTION: (Rick B. / Ari F.) The BOT speak on the IFD/Motion at the ABC/M instead of submitting it to the ARS.

Round Robin:

- If there is a statement made before the abm then the board will not be allowed to speak on the Motion/IFD at the microphone unless there is additional information to be presented.
- If the comments are put on paper ahead of time the info can go back to the intergroups and help save time at the ABM.
- Delegates want to know what the Board's opinion is knowing that the Board had reviewed the Agenda items.
- Point of clarification: that the statement would not go into the agenda, that it would just be read at the ABM.
- There's benefit to having the information beforehand.
- Think it was nice to hear it from a Board member from the mic and it made the meeting flow smoothly.

Round Robin:

- Believe that if the statement is given beforehand it may alter what the conference thinks about it. I believe the statement should be given in the moment to hear what Higher Power has to say.
- If the statement is given beforehand they may feel that the Board is trying to influence the item.

- There has not been a set rule with previous boards, other boards have put in their comments ahead of time.

Vote: 6-2-0 Passes.

Minority Opinion:

- Historically, previous Boards have had the statements on the agenda except for last year. Think it's more organized to have the board's comments beforehand. Whether or not it influences a decision by the conference and their Higher Power will be up to them.
- Believe it would save time at the ABM if stated ahead of time.

2nd Vote: 6-2-0 passes.

Need to set up who will speak at the microphone:

Round Robin:

- It may be a good idea to cycle through so that someone is not stuck with the ones that are leftover at the end.
- If a Board member speaks on behalf of a Committee then they should not speak on behalf of the Board.
- Assigning the speakers in numerical sequence may not be making the most out of the Board statement if there is someone that has experience with the item or is directly involved with.
- Item Tabled -

25o02/24-01 IFD: [Discuss proposed new and revised personal stories for the Second Edition of the Basic Text.](#) - "The Board of Trustees look forward to hearing what the conference has to say on this IFD."

Round Robin:

- Board should stay neutral - will be a hot topic.
- Would like to say how much time and effort has been put into this and we are behind 100%, however the statement as is, is staying neutral and that the Fellowship should speak through the Conference.
- Would like to see some of the stories stay in, however neutrality is the way to go here.

Vote: To keep the statement as is. **No objections.**

25o03/23-06 Motion: [Publish revisions to the pamphlet, "Anorexia: Sexual, Social, Emotional," and update the corresponding anorexia Core Documents.](#) - "The Board of Trustees support this motion and look forward to hearing what the conference has to say on it."

Round Robin:

Like the statement as is.

Would like to share that we are grateful for all the work that went into these projects and for the production of literature.

Vote: Keep the statement as is: **No objections.**

25o04/20-04 Motion: [Publish the book, "A Framework for Living: The Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous."](#) - "The Board of Trustees look forward to hearing what the conference has to say on this Motion."

Round Robin:

- Previous board chose to stay neutral.
- Much needed literature but important that the Board stay neutral.
- Deeply needed piece of literature, but if the Board cannot reach a consensus then ok with staying.
- Think as a Board we should get behind it, it promotes service work in a healthy way.
- Agree that the Board should be behind this.
- Better to stay neutral - a lot of controversy around this. Some wanted a 12x12 and others wanted a 12x12x12.
- Other motions may not carry the same weight unless we stay neutral.
- Agree with the last statement since we stayed neutral on other writing projects that the Board's statement should stay neutral on this as well.

Consensus Poll: How many would be in favor of saying that the board supports the motion? 3. In light of that, how many support the motion for the board statement as is without showing support for the motion?

Vote: Keep the statement as is: **No objections.**

25o05/24-02 IFD: [Discuss proposed revisions to the "S.L.A.A. Preamble."](#) - "The Board of Trustees look forward to hearing what the conference has to say on this IFD."

Round Robin:

- As an IFD it's ok to remain neutral.
- It only changes 5 words or hyphens.
- It's worked fine, there's no need to fix it.
- Should remain neutral and see what the conference has to say.
- I'm all for remaining neutral.
- It grew out of editing work on the 2nd edition of the Basic text. No further comment.
- I think it would be helpful to have them there but not set on it.
- The Preamble is already documented in not just the Basic Text, but everywhere. Fine with the current comment that we have as a board.
- Conference approved July 25, 2012.

Vote: **No objections** to keeping the current board statement.

25o06/24-03 IFD: [Discuss proposed revisions to "The Twelve Recommended Guidelines for Dealing with the Media."](#) - "The Board of Trustees look forward to hearing what the conference has to say on this IFD."

Round Robin:

- Remain neutral.
- Remain neutral.
- Support or neutral, either way.
- Participated in writing, No further comment.
- Remain neutral.
- Remain neutral.

Consensus Poll: How many would support changing the wording to "the Board supports this IFD and look forward to hearing what the Conference has to say?" 5.

One objection to keeping as read (not support the statement)

Round Robin:

- Oppose to say support because it's an IFD and not a Motion.
- In favor. It's a Core Document and has had a ton of work put into it and it's needed update. Grateful for all the work and it's a big improvement for intergroups that have to translate some of the words in the Guidelines.
- In favor. Not only a lot of time and work that people have volunteered but these guidelines improve the readability and understandability of the Guidelines for Public Media. Helps define what's acceptable and what's not acceptable in dealing with public media.
- Neutral - doesn't make sense to support a discussion.
- If the board is in agreement that the changes are substantive then the Board should state that.

Does the Board like this statement? "The Board of Trustees supports these substantive changes and looks forward to hearing what the conference has to say on this IFD."

Round Robin:

- Still think it's important to remain neutral on IFD's.
- Now realizing it is an IFD it would be better to remain neutral. If it was a motion it would make sense to say something about it, but not since it's an IFD.
- The Board deals with Public relations and Public media every day. It's important to have the backing of the Board if it goes to a Motion.
- Support that the changes need to be made but mostly interested in what the conference has to say.
- As newly phrased it makes it more clear that it's an IFD and not a Motion.
- The Board members can speak at the mic as long as they're not speaking on behalf of the Board, but the conference members might still perceive them as speaking as the Board.

No Objections to leaving the Board statement as is.

24o07/24-04 By-Laws Motion: Update the F.W.S. Office address. - "The Board of Trustees support this motion."

Round Robin:

- In support of the motion and the statement.
- Support is a good idea.
- Needs to be done in a timely manner. The move from Boston to San Antonio was controversial without conference input.
- Surprised that it has taken this long.
- Delayed long enough.
- Believe that ByLaws motions should be given priority.

No Objections to the Board statement as is.

25o08/24-05 IFD: Discuss proposed "[Characteristics of Fantasy Addiction](#)" and "[Signs of Recovery from Fantasy Addiction](#)." - "The Board of Trustees look forward to hearing what the conference has to say on this IFD."

Round Robin:

- As an IFD it is important to remain neutral.
- Appreciate the work and look forward to having this become a part of our literature.
- Love the items but should remain neutral. Fantasy is increasing and the CFAC should be its own committee. The membership survey already shows that people identify.
- Right thing for the Board to do is stay neutral.
- Appreciate what the Board has shared and look forward to hear what the conference has to say.

No objections to the statement as is.

25o09/22-02 [Publish the booklet, “Making the Most of Meetings.”](#) - “The Board of Trustees look forward to hearing what the conference has to say on this Motion.”

Round Robin:

- Supportive of being positive about the motion but ok with being neutral.
- Support saying that the board supports. There was a part added about safety and the board should be behind safety in meetings.
- Agree with the statement that the Board supports the motion.
- Vote for supporting the motion. New literature is driving a significant portion of our financial position. Also in support of the safety language that was added. The Board should get behind this.
- Support the motion but believe the board should stay neutral and let the Conference decide.
- Fine keeping it neutral.

Motion: To change the Board statement to “The Board of Trustees board supports this motion and looks forward to what the Conference has to say.”

Vote: 8-0-0

25o10/23-04 By-Laws Motion: [ARTICLE X: Specify what type of members may vote to approve indemnification.](#) - “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.”

Point of Clarification:

- BCTC requires that a copyright attorney be consulted. Copyright attorney recommended a lawyer to us for the review of this, but if the Board will have to plan on paying money.
- Texas law requires that we call our trustees Directors, and the point is just to come in line with Texas law.
- Think it would be pertinent to have a lawyer review this.

Motion to Table - Table the Board’s opinion pending more information and discuss whether or not to have a lawyer review - Unanimous.

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.”

Motion to table - We’ll be consulting with an attorney on this item as well.

Vote: 8-0-0 Unanimous.

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.”

Motion to Table - Vote 8-0-0.

Point of Inquiry: Can the ARS combine these three by-laws motions into one?

- Since they are different articles the ARS listed them as three separate motions.

25o13/21-17 Motion: [Create the Conference Fantasy Addiction Committee \(CFAC\)](#) - “The Board of Trustees look forward to hearing what the conference has to say on this Motion.”

Background: A previous Conference thought that the membership of the CMRC would be hindered if the CFAC was created and that the committee needed to establish a wider base. It now takes up a significant portion of the CMRC and the topic is growing in the number of people needing it.

Round Robin:

- In favor of saying that the Board supports the motion and also ok with being neutral. The committee may be appealing and get more people involved in service.
- Prefer that the Board say that it supports the motion. The committee may encourage more people to get into service.
- Want to say that the Board strongly supports creating its own committee. important area for recovery.
- Started with two fantasy focus meetings, now there are sixteen around the world. The need for literature is growing exponentially
- Will go with group conscience. Prefer to stay neutral about the creation of conference committees.
- Normally I wouldn't want to add a committee because of the low participation we have, but think this might be a popular one.

Consensus poll: Those in favor of saying the Board supports the motion: 6.

Consensus poll: The BOT supports more opportunities to be of service, and looks forward to hearing what the Conference has to say: 6.

Round Robin:

- Think it would be good to support the Fantasy group, however the Conference is a separate entity and the Board does not control what is said.
- CHRC was a subcommittee before it became a committee and it had to be voted on by the Conference. Letting the Conference know that the Board supports service and that it draws from the committees to be Trustees.
- Point of Clarification: Committees have to be created by a separate motion.
- The Conference is the one that creates the committees so the board perspective should not try to have a say in that.
- Straw poll: 5

Consensus vote: For the statement to be “The BOT supports this motion and looks forward to hearing what the Conference has to say.” 1-7-0

MOTION: The Board of Trustees support more opportunities to be of service and we look forward to hearing what the Conference has to say.

5-1-2 Passes.

Minority opinion:

Feel like it's stating that we're creating opportunities for service without considering the resources and volunteers needed for the service.

2nd Vote: 5-1-2 Passes.

- Remainder of Agenda Items Tabled -

REGULAR PRIORITY:

- e) **IFD:** Updated Harassment Policy (Placeholder)
- f) **MOTION:** All F.W.S outreach materials must be within seven years of board's approval. (Jack F., 27 Aug 2024)
- g) **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)
- h) **IFD:** please add board committee information getting posted to F.W.S. site with descriptions and/or applications. (Ari F., 9 Oct 2024)
- i) **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)
- j) **MOTION:** Approve the CHRC Healthy Relationship Bundle, proposed by the CHRC, for sale on the FWS website. (Phoenix G., 30 Oct 2024)
- k) **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)
- l) **IFD:** Definition of a group.
- m) **IFD:** BOT recovery meetings? (23 Oct 2024)
- n) **IFD:** Schedule a Strategy Summit to Review of Board Self-Assessment (Action Items) and form BOT Annual goals – 3 year goals and 5 year goals- Chris D.
- o) **IFD:** Endowment fund donation maximums?
- p) **IFD:** 50th anniversary merchandise.
- q) **IFD:** Errors and Omissions insurance for BOT non-officers?

Stop Recording (*9) and turn off transcript

Closing Matters:

- **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 (on 18 May)
7 Jun 2025 7:00 a.m. UTC Jeff chairing	21 June 2025 7:00 a.m. UTC	5 Jul 2025 12:00 p.m. UTC
19 July 2025 4:00 a.m. UTC (on 20 July)	2 Aug 2025 11:00 p.m. UTC	